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THE NONCONFORMIST.

"The dissidence of dissent and the protestantism of the protestant religion."

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

FIRST STEPS TO ANOTHER ESTABLISHMENT.

BEFORE the present number of the *Nonconformist* has issued from the press, her Majesty, under the advice of her present government, will probably have recommended to parliament a further and more practical recognition, by the state, of the Roman catholic church in Ireland, than that effected last session by the passing of the Charitable Bequests act. Rumour points to the probable founding of two colleges, on a liberal scale, for the education of the priesthood of that communion—the one at Belfast, the other at Cork. We take it for granted that rumour is, in this instance, substantially true, and that the suggestion of Mr Gladstone from the cabinet may be referred to the ministerial policy on this question. The prevailing tone of both political parties, in both houses of the legislature, last session, led us to conclude that the next great attempt of the aristocracy to uphold misrule in Ireland, would be made in this direction—the character of the premier warranted the conjecture that it would be made cautiously, stealthily, and with a plausibility which would go far to insure its success. The present proposition bears out these anticipations. It is a revolution in embryo. Too wary to offer the existing race of priests a direct bribe to silence, Sir Robert Peel adroitly lays claim to their forbearance, by providing for their successors, and aims to train up a gentlemanly staff of Roman ecclesiastics, upon whose sympathies with government some dependence may be placed, and who, having tasted the sweets of state bounty, will throw no objections in the way of more substantial support. Two ends are likely to be gained by this insidious policy. On the one hand, the priests will be gradually reconciled to state pay—and the public, on the other, will be accustomed to the now startling idea of a Roman catholic establishment. Meanwhile, attention will be diverted from the anomaly of a protestant national church among a population seven-eighths of whom abjure its creed—the apple of discord is thrown amongst the repealers—the services of the Pope are secured for the time being—and the chief difficulty, if not mastered, is indefinitely postponed. The founding of colleges for the education of the Roman catholic priesthood, all men will see, is but the first timid step in a new system of policy—but, like first steps in general, it points distinctly to the end—civil magistracy in this empire, in formal alliance with two churches of conflicting creeds.

The real question, then, which the proposal of ministers, if made, will bring under discussion is this—Shall we, or shall we not, establish the Roman catholic church in Ireland? To this, accordingly, we shall at once address ourselves.

Were it referred to us for decision which of the two creeds, protestant or Roman, should be allied with the state, we should unhesitatingly pronounce for the latter. The choice would be the lesser of two evils—for we hold it far less detrimental to religion that error should be pushed into unnatural importance, than that truth should be paralysed by a corrupt alliance. We believe that, in some respects, the vitality of error would be sapped by extending to it governmental support—and that

possibly, in the long run, no policy would be more likely to hasten its overthrow than one which should overlay it with worldly dignity and wealth. But the overthrow, in such a case, would be but a very partial good. Roman catholicism being gone, pure Christianity would not occupy its place. The vacancy would be filled up by a universal infidelity, and Ireland, like France, would abjure the true with the false. To establish error, therefore, is far from being in our view a legitimate means of seeking its extinction—for even supposing the balance of advantage to be ultimately unquestionable, the evils which we must take with it are too formidable to be thought of.

The proposition looked at *per se* is objectionable on religious grounds. We protest against the wrong done to our conscience, in educating men at our expense to promulgate a creed which we hold to be subversive of Christian truth—in sharpening and polishing those weapons which will be employed in cutting down the spiritual independence of our fellow-men—in training up intellect to impose upon ignorance, and furnishing forth the advocates of what we esteem as pernicious falsehood with all the information, discipline, and mental power, to wield it with effect. The policy may suit the designs of statesmen who care nothing further about religion than as they may turn it to the account of their own ambitious and oppressive designs. But surely they who regard the scriptures as a revelation of God's purposes and will, and who are convinced in their consciences that the whole purport of it is frustrated by the Romish church, cannot, and ought not, be made the cat's paw in the hands of a perplexed aristocracy, in giving currency to tenets they hold to be opposed to the mind of their divine Master. No government has a right thus to tamper with the religious convictions of its subjects—and obedience fails to be its due when it requires a people's support of a faith which they renounce. We are aware that this argument pushed to its legitimate extent goes to the subversion of all civil establishments of religion. We admit it—and we hope now that the movements of government will probably pinch the consciences of many members of the church of England, they will at length learn to "do unto others as they would that others should do unto them."

The political aspect of this proposal is equally objectionable. The priesthood of Ireland constitute just now the mouth of the people—and this is an attempt on the part of their oppressors to muffle it—to strike discontent dumb, rather than concede to its demands—to draw over to the side of injustice whatever power there remains calculated to make injustice uneasy—to drug the people into torpid quiescence by poisoning spiritual instruction at its fountain head with slavish maxims—in short, to wield over a susceptible and deluded peasantry the terrors of the world to come, where the baton of the policeman and the sabre of the dragoon fail to reach them. A more atrocious scheme—one more atheistic in spirit, more selfish in purpose, more cruel in the means employed, more disastrous in its tendencies—has never yet been propounded to parliament. What is it, according to their own hypocritical professions of Protestantism, but selling the souls of a whole nation of men for a mess of pottage?

We are somewhat curious to observe how this master-piece of Machiavellian policy will be greeted by the nation. Recent events have proved that the people of these realms are in no great humour to submit to any tightening of sacerdotal bands. They are not quite in such a hurry for Rome as are their rulers. Are we to look for an explosion? Or will party spirit smother conscientious misgivings? We are in doubt. It may be, we are on the eve of a sudden revolution? The religious predilections of a nation are dangerous things with which for statesmen to tamper. It is impossible to foresee whether there will be a storm, as the result of this sudden introduction of an anti-national policy—but if there be, it will whiffle Peel off his seat in a twinkling, and probably shake the church of England to her lowermost foundations.

HARD WORDS AND MYSTERIOUS INUENDOES.

"FAIR play is a jewel"—and it were well if those gentlemen who conduct that portion of the periodical press which comes under the description "religious," would but estimate it at its true

worth. We regret to observe that they do not—that, judging from appearances, the code of morality by which they govern their labours is far from being uniformly honourable—that the violence which they condemn in others they scruple not to practise when it suits their own ends—and that to this violence they sometimes superadd a disingenuousness to which high-minded men of the world would scorn to resort. Two or three specimens of this have been thrust upon our notice within the last three weeks, the exposure of which may help to put down a great and growing evil.

It will be in the recollection of many of our readers, that at the close of the last autumnal meeting of the Congregational Union, at Norwich, we informed the public of a scheme for superintending the introduction of ministers to vacant churches, submitted to the notice of that body by Mr James, of Birmingham. In the January number of the *Christian Witness*, more than two months after our brief article had appeared, we found the following sentence, amongst the notices "to correspondents":—"J. Berry is only one of a multitude of the 'excellent of the earth' who rejoice in the wise suggestion of Mr James relative to 'vacant churches,' &c.; and few, very few, we are confident, have the slightest sympathy with those men of mischief, those dealers in defamation, who, in certain quarters, have wickedly endeavoured, by most false and malicious representations, to excite public prejudice against this truly laudable and highly necessary measure." As the *Nonconformist* was the only journal which had expressed any opinion on the matter alluded to, there was, of course, no difficulty in ascertaining the party thus courteously described. We took no heed of it, simply because we thought that the form which exudes from the mouth of fury, is a sufficient warning to all intelligent men not to place implicit trust in the sanctity of motives assumed by those who display it. In the February number of the same magazine, a second notice is inserted in the same department, and it runs thus:—"S. S. England. 'Were our esteemed friend in our place, he would quickly ascertain our grounds for characterising certain parties as 'men of mischief and dealers in defamation.'" Here is a stab in the dark. This is the mode in which some of the "excellent of the earth," we suppose, administer arsenic to the reputation of a suspected adversary. It is not, then, on the grounds of what we have published that we are designated by such sweet alliterative terms—for of the strength of these Mr England could judge as accurately as the editor of the *Christian Witness*—but it is, on grounds which the editor alone can appreciate, and which, could his correspondent only ascertain, would be regarded as a justification of his sledgehammer abuse. Now, we think we are entitled to ask that this inuendo be fully explained. It is, of course, impossible for us to do so with certain accuracy, as we are left in the dark as to the facts at which the hint is designed to aim. But we will frankly disclose all that we know, and leave our courteous censor to add any fuller explanation. Our remarks on Mr James's scheme were published on October 30th, 1844, and, if our representations might properly be characterised as "false and malicious" on the 1st of January, 1845, they might, with equal propriety, have been so designated on the 1st of December, 1844. In the *Nonconformist* of the 4th of December in that year—and more than a full month, be it observed, after our original strictures had been published—the "Dedication" of the *Christian Witness* appeared as an advertisement. Along with the order for its insertion, we received a note from the editor, requesting us to call the attention of our readers to it, and wishing us success in the great work in which we were engaged. Of course, therefore, we were not then, in his estimation, what very shortly afterwards he scrupled not to call us. What produced so wonderful a change in his opinion? We have looked over our columns, and find nothing to account for it but a short note from "a Countryman," complaining that the advertisements were wanting in the copy of the December number of the *Christian Witness* which he had just purchased. "Is it because we gave insertion to that note, that the editor all at once discovered us to be 'men of mischief, and dealers in defamation?'" and was it in the light of this discovery that he looked back to October, and saw us "wickedly endeavouring, by most false and malicious representations, to

excite public prejudice" against Mr James's plan? The editor of the *Christian Witness*, who, when remonstrated with, falls back upon his exclusive knowledge, is now, and has always been, at full liberty to give facts in justification of his coarse vituperations. If there is anything behind, let him out with it, by all means.

Turn we now to another specimen. The editor of the *Congregational Magazine*, in a brief notice of the comparative claims of the forthcoming *British Quarterly* and the *Eclectic Review*, whilst vindicating the attachment of Dr Vaughan and his supporters to the voluntary principle, and their earnest desire for the abolition of established churches, remarks—"But they will not seek these objects by maintaining an 'active and systematised opposition,' to the certain injury of spiritual religion in the churches, nor by allying themselves with chartists and rash and reckless partisans, to the vast scandal of Christian brethren of other denominations, and to the certain peril of their own spiritual prosperity." Here, again, dark inuendo takes the place of manly rebuke. The term "chartist" carries with it, as the writer well knew, a reference to physical-force attempts to establish a certain political creed; and he knew equally well that they whom he undertakes to censure have given public pledges innumerable of their abhorrence of employing any means for the diffusion of their principles but such as are moral, peaceful, and Christian. The mere holding of certain political tenets he could not reasonably denounce as "a scandal to Christian brethren," inasmuch as all his American friends, even the most godly, hold precisely those tenets as tenaciously as can any of us on this side of the Atlantic. He therefore deliberately hurls at his opponents a designation which will excite against them an unfair prejudice; and, having done this, intimates as his motive his own concern for the continuance of their "spiritual prosperity."

One more illustration and we have done. Mr John Clayton has lately resigned his pastorate over the church assembling in the Poultry chapel. In a letter printed for exclusive circulation among the members of that church, he sets forth his reasons for taking so unexpected a step. We have been favoured with a sight of it, and we find therein, amongst much rubbish, the following sentence:—"I wish to retire, then, not from weariness, or disgust with my work, in which I still take delight; not to enjoy the *otium cum dignitate*, which my principles would not sanction, nor my moderate means allow; not to become an ecclesiastical or political incendiary, holding up a torch of flame, and smoke, and terror, or carrying about with me lucifers to fire the peaceful homesteads of my rural brethren," &c. The allusion wrapped up in this last passage is well understood by Mr Clayton's members. How comes it that it was inserted? Levelled as a public charge against the party whom it was designed to smite, it would have been harmless; but thrust insidiously into a letter never intended for publication, it would do its work of calumny silently and in the dark. Lucifers, forsooth! If we do anything in the way of censure, we do it openly, publicly, avowedly, and with a cordial readiness to bear the responsibility. We do not skulk about in the dark, dropping inuendoes where none can suspect us of having been, and attacking reputation in modes which admit of no reply.

What then do we object to in all this? Not the hard names, which, in fact, only amuse us—not the violence which carries within itself its own corrective. No! But we protest against the furtive methods of dealing out such wares—against the cowardice and the meanness which steal upon their victim on tiptoe—insinuate that they have private knowledge to bear out the coarsest public censure—employ epithets which are designed to create a false impression—and launch invectives, in comparatively private circles, under circumstances which admit of no opportunity for explanation or defence. Before we resort to these disingenuous tricks, may our right hand forget her cunning, and our tongue cleave to the roof of our mouth! We leave them all to our very pious detractors, rejoicing that, if these be their Christian manners, we have learned ours in a very different school.

TIT-BITS OF CONFESSION.

THE troubles ecclesiastic which rend the church of England, are bringing out every now and then, from both the belligerent parties, admissions which tell but poorly in favour of apostolical succession. Surely, if anywhere men's minds ought to be at rest, whether on the subject of doctrine or of discipline, it should be within the pale of our "venerated establishment." Upwards of three hundred years ago it answered, by act of parliament, the question, "What is truth?" and confident of its own infallibility, it has ever since inflicted, in some shape, pains and penalties upon all who presumed to doubt its dogmatic pretensions. And if any of her members remain in uncertainty as to "what says the church?" it was to have been expected that, at all events, the hierarchy and clergy

would have known her mind. The following extract from a leading article in the *Times*, however, discloses a very pretty state of ecclesiastical confusion, to be maintained at the annual expense of several millions sterling.

"Either we are Romanists, or we are not. If not, we want not their symbols nor their ceremonies. If we are to play the protestant, but look Romish, would it not be far better to throw off one creed or the other, and proclaim ourselves at once what we are? If we are protestants wishing to be Romanists, why delay the result? Why not vow fealty to the Pope, and be received again under his dominion? If we choose to remain what our fathers were, and what they have taught us to be, assimilation with Rome cannot be. It is full time we knew what we were. But when the bishops are so undetermined, and the clergy so divided, what is to become of the laity, unless, compelled, as they are, by the necessities of the case, they show a bold front, and avow their unshaken determination to check all advances in the direction of Rome?"

It may be asked, with some show of reason, if the above representation be correct, what bishops are worth? what they do? in what respects they are wanted? They settle nothing, they are themselves divided, and the whole counterpoise of the laity is needed to keep them from sliding back to Rome. Let us again consult our oracle, and, from the tenor of its exhortations, learn how very much like to the apostles are those who, in modern days, vaunt most loudly their succession to apostolic authority. The *Times*, in an article which is devoted to prove that the poor and the hard-working of the clergy in the establishment are uniformly neglected by their spiritual overseers, concludes its observations thus:—

"Then what, it may be asked, are the bishops to do? Do as bishops of old did—maintain a more frequent intercourse—visit their clergy now and then in a friendly, social, parental manner—go to their churches, their schools, their houses. Not, indeed, as spies, but as superiors who wish to ascertain what men their subordinates are, and to learn from personal evidence the actual condition of the diocese. Not to burden them with any superfluous expenditure in entertaining them, but to solace, and cheer, and strengthen them in their work with kind and pleasant words. A little extra trouble—very little; a pleasant ride from village to village—the sacrifice of a dinner party or two—the relinquishment of a short space of luxury and ease, are well worth the effort. Let them, moreover, open wide the palace doors, and attract the clergy to them by every possible inducement of affection and regard, not solely by the occasional prospect of a costly but formal dinner. Let them make their title a real one—to be fathers in God truly and substantially to every one who falls within the circuit of their spiritual domain. Let them try this but for once, and far more effectual and permanent benefit will thus accrue to both clergy and laity, than by all the most arbitrary injunctions that can be devised for wearing the surplice in the pulpit, reading the offertory, or any yet more novel piece of fantastic innovation that has occurred to the fertile brains of Bishops Blomfield or Phillpotts."

"Let them try this, but for once." Ah! the experiment, then, is quite foreign to all their present habits—altogether out of the ordinary course of things. And what is it they are to screw themselves up to try? "A little extra trouble—a very little; a pleasant ride from village to village—the sacrifice of a dinner party or two—the relinquishment of a short space of luxury and ease." Now this, in the language of Lord Liverpool, is really "too bad." To put bishops to so searching a test as this, even though it be "but for once," is cruel. Does the *Times* reflect how it would break in upon the routine of these primitive men's engagements and enjoyments? Can it be expected of them to add to their onerous duties, or to surrender any one of their numerous pleasures? The journal which calls upon them to do this, tacitly admits by its "but for once" the monstrous extremity of its demand—and leaves all impartial by-standers to infer that as the bishops leave all doctrine in uncertainty, so the staple of their practice approximates more closely to the table than to the cell—to self-indulgence than to self-denial.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

MR RICHARDSON'S LECTURE AT LEEDS.—The second lecture of the course on "State Establishments of Religion," for the delivery of which the local registrars of the Anti-state-church Association in this town have made arrangements, was delivered by James Richardson, Esq., solicitor, on Wednesday evening last, in the Baptist chapel, South Parade. The subject of the lecture was, "The brotherhood and equality of believers (as such) is an institution of Christ Jesus for the extension of his kingdom upon earth, which is discouraged of necessity by churches in connexion with the kingdoms of this world." The proceedings commenced between seven and eight o'clock. Mr J. Peters, Wesleyan association minister, occupied the chair, and introduced the business of the meeting with some appropriate remarks, vindicating the Association from the aspersions which had been cast upon it. Mr Richardson commenced his lecture by explaining and defending the objects of the Anti-state-church Association; after which, he showed the necessity for examining this subject by the light of revelation, and the unsatisfactory and unauthoritative character of all decisions respecting it, come to without its aid. He then entered on the more direct subject of the lecture, which he divided into the following three heads:—first, the kingdom of Christ upon earth is a spiritual kingdom, and its seat is in the hearts of believers, and there only; second, the oneness, the union or the brotherhood of believers, with the con-

sequent equality as such, is an institution formed for the extension of Christ's kingdom upon earth, and is governed by fixed and unalterable laws; third, the consequences of deviation from the laws of Christ, given for the government of his kingdom upon earth. These were discussed *seriatim*, with much earnestness and moderation. In noticing the various modifications of spiritual despotism the lecturer remarked:—

Protestants were too fond of ascribing all kinds of evil to what they called Antichrist—meaning the Roman catholic hierarchy. Now he maintained that spiritual despotism—however it was found, wherever it existed—was an antichrist. But some might inquire, at what point did spiritual despotism begin? It was a most important point to be determined, and he should state that, wherever the power or will of man—be he pastor, or deacon, or private member of the church—or the power or will of any combination of men, assumed dominion or authority over the brotherhood or church of Christ, so as to destroy the equality of all the brethren—there was antichrist. It would be uncandid, therefore, not to admit that spiritual despotism might and did exist amongst the nonconformists to an alarming extent; but it necessarily followed that the most dangerous form of spiritual despotism was that which was connected with the kingdoms of this world. He proceeded to show some of the evils which peculiarly developed themselves, as the consequences of deviating from the laws of Christ, when men combined Christianity with the state.

Under the third division of his subject, Mr Richardson, after referring at some length to the dissensions in the state church, and especially the proceedings at Exeter, points out, with much force, the anomalous position of the establishment:—

The confusion and disorders thus prevailing, he ascribed to the departure of the establishment from the simplicity of Christ's law, and the model of an apostate church, as exhibited in the New Testament. What were the remedies which the opposing parties proposed? One proposed that an application should be made to her Majesty, to exercise the powers vested in her by act of parliament, passed in the time of Henry the Eighth. In that case, she would have to consult her cabinet, and Sir Robert Peel, with one set of principles, and Mr Gladstone, the FUSEYITE, with another set of principles, and probably some of them with no principles at all, must regulate the form of prayer and church services of the United Kingdom. That would not do [hear, hear]. A second party said, Go to parliament. But who invested the infidels, Roman catholics, protestants, independents, baptists, Wesleyans, who were to be found in the two houses of parliament, with the qualifications for so sacred an office? That will not do [hear, hear]. A third party said, Call a convocation of the clergy; but the statesmen cry out, we dare not trust a convocation. Convocations have not been called for some time, and in the present divided state of the church, the proposal is highly inexpedient. That would not do [hear, hear]. A fourth party said, Commence an amicable suit in the ecclesiastical court, to decide what is the law, as to the points in dispute. What a proposal, that men were to go to law in courts which the House of Commons had loudly condemned, and which all good men wished to be uprooted for ever, for the purpose of deciding how they should behave themselves in the house of God! That would not do [hear, hear]. But perhaps it might be said, since none of these remedies would do, what would he (the lecturer) do? Ask how the church of Antioch acted when they had a most important question to decide—namely, whether the rites of the Jewish ritual were, or were not, to be introduced into the Christian church. They consulted their brethren in Jerusalem, and the church received the messages from Antioch. The apostles, and elders, and brethren at Jerusalem met—not the apostles alone—and there was much disputation too, at that church meeting—disputation, of which some people, both churchmen and dissenters, had so much dread. In all the disputings at that church meeting, the brethren were held together by the bond of peace, the democracy or equality of the brethren [hear, hear]. Apostles were there, who gave their opinion, but did not say that they had power to compel obedience to their commands, whether they were "wise or unwise," as the Bishop of Exeter did [hear, hear].

The lecturer concluded with an appeal on behalf of the Anti-state-church Association. They asked for support to this movement because they believed from the bottom of their hearts—having looked into the word of God, and sought for heavenly direction—that union of church and state was calculated to destroy the welfare of the nation, and to prevent the advancement of Christianity in the land [applause]. Let them, therefore, seek by all possible argumentative and constitutional measures, to obtain the severance of the church from the state, assured that they would thereby promote the happiness of the country, deliver their friends of the church of England from confusion and disorder, in connexion with their worship, devote the revenues of their country to purposes which would relieve the people, and establish three things—civil liberty, religious liberty, and Christian liberty [applause]. On the proposition of Mr Swann, seconded by Mr Wade, a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Mr Richardson for his able and instructive lecture. The chairman observed that he was quite aware that the inhabitants of the town had full confidence in Mr Richardson's law, and he thought after that night they would have the same confidence in his gospel [hear, hear]. He was sure that for lucidness, power of argument, and conclusiveness, the lecture had been all that could possibly be desired. A vote of thanks was also passed to the chairman, after which, at about half-past nine o'clock, the meeting separated.—*Abridged from the Leeds Times.*

STONE ALTARS IN CHURCHES.—In the Arches court, on Friday, Sir Herbert Jenner Fust delivered judgment in the case of *Faulkner versus Litchfield* and others. In the church of the Holy Sepulchre at Cambridge, the Camden Society and the parishioners, without the knowledge of the incumbent, Mr Faulkner, had erected a stone altar and a credence table in place of the communion table. The churchwardens applied to the chancellor of

the diocese of Ely, for a faculty confirming these and several other alterations in the church; but Mr Faulkner opposed its issue, on the ground that the communion table alone could legally be put up in the church. The chancellor decided against the objection. Sir Herbert Fust's judgment occupied five hours in the delivery; for he reviewed the whole history of the subject, beginning before the time of the reformation. He showed that in the reign of Edward the Sixth, it was expressly directed by an order in council, that the stone altar should be discontinued, and a moveable wooden table substituted; and that such was uniformly the purport of regulations issued in the reformed church at subsequent periods; the object being, to discountenance the superstitious uses of popery. When the altar was abolished, it was never intended to continue the use of the credence table. He therefore reversed the judgment of the chancellor, amending the faculty in respect to the objectionable alterations; the respondents to bear the costs of the appeal.

TITCHMARSH v. CHAPMAN.—Application having been made to the court of Queen's bench for a *mandamus*, to compel the vicar of Basingbourn to bury the body of Jane Rumbel, the unbaptised child, at the suggestion of the court, a notice was served on him on Wednesday last, informing him that the body would be brought for interment at four o'clock the next day. The rev. gentleman having obtained the services of Mr W. Coulcher, vicar of Whaddon, the interment took place at the appointed time, in the presence of some hundreds of spectators. This case has often been before the public, and argued repeatedly in the ecclesiastical court, every effort having been made on the ground of the baptism not being valid, or "heretical baptism," which the ingenuity of counsel could devise to impede the interment; and the Vicar, as a last resource, having failed to obtain a prohibition from the court of Queen's bench, to prevent any fresh application for interment (the body having been brought twice before), he was reluctantly compelled to perform those rites which are the birthright of every baptised British subject.

Jane Rumbel born Dec. 12, 1839.
" " baptised Feb. 8, 1840.
" " deceased Feb. 14, 1840.
First presentation for burial Feb. 17, 1840.
Second " " May 26, 1841.
Third " " Jan. 30, 1845.

Thus, after nearly five years' litigation, the ashes of Jane Rumbel were allowed to be deposited by the side of her mother and ten of her brothers and sisters.

THE SCHISM IN THE STATE CHURCH.

The correspondent of the *Times*, who is very diligent in searching out facts connected with the contentions going on between the clergy and laity of Devonshire, gives a detailed account of the state of things at West Teignmouth. About two years ago this parish was at peace, but at that time Mr Lawrence Gwynne was appointed rector, and he introduced preaching in the surplice, with some corresponding changes, which had the effect of reducing the congregation from 1,500 to 750. In the autumn of 1843, Mr Walter Blunt (since become noted for his share in the Helston case) was appointed curate, and introducing further changes, he further reduced the congregation to 60 or 70. Mr Blunt was removed to Helston, and was succeeded by Mr Cardew, whose conduct restored the congregation to about 700. Thus stood matters when the Bishop of Exeter's letter appeared, advising the clergy not to persevere in the use of the surplice if distasteful to their parishioners. The parishioners of West Teignmouth accordingly called on Mr Gwynne to relinquish its use; and communications were made by the inhabitants both to the Bishop of Exeter and the Archbishop of Canterbury. The bishop replied, that he had written to Mr Gwynne, but could not direct him; and when the parishioners applied to the rector to know what the bishop had said, Mr Gwynne said that he must again communicate with the prelate before making any changes. The result was, that on Sunday last, when Mr Gwynne mounted the pulpit, the whole of the congregation, except a score or two, left the church. The parishioners held a meeting on Monday, in the midst of which was received a letter from Mr Gwynne, saying:—

In consequence of my regarding his lordship's advice almost in the same light as his injunction (from my respect for the episcopal office), I contemplate making some alteration with reference to divine service in West Teignmouth church. It is my wish, however, that for a time there should be no alteration, but that the service should be conducted exactly as it is at present. I shall be prepared, at no distant opportunity, to give public notice of the nature of such alteration. This statement ought to be satisfactory to all parties. At the same time I beg explicitly to say, that I shall not allow myself to be coerced in a matter in which the clergy alone are concerned; and, therefore, should there be a repetition of the irreverent and most disgraceful conduct which we witnessed on Sunday last in the house of God, occasioned chiefly by certain persons who, after an absence of a year or two, came there purposely to create agitation and cause disturbance; or should public meetings be held in the parish, and offensive resolutions passed, I shall then deem it my duty to the church, however painful and trying to myself that duty may be, fully to assert and vindicate the independence of the office which I hold, and I shall then decline to make any alteration.

The reading of this letter was followed by a burst of laughter and hisses; and resolutions were passed unanimously, declaring the continued use of the surplice in the pulpit offensive, the letter uncourteous and disrespectful, Mr Gwynne's conduct lamentably conducive to dissent in the parish, and calling upon him, if he could not comply with the wishes of the parishioners, to resign his incumbency.

FALMOUTH.—In this town the same state of things prevails as in other parts of the diocese. The rector, Mr W. J. Coope, about two years ago introduced all the Tractarian innovations, much to the manifest disgust of the congregation, and shortly after betook himself to Florence, where he has ever since remained. He left directions with his curate, Mr John Symonds, to carry out and persist in all the changes he had introduced. He thus left his curate bound to pursue a course which it is said the latter gentleman does not approve, and that his parishioners detest, but which he cannot alter without his absent rector's permission; this he cannot get, and the bishop refuses to interfere. Last year the parish refused a rate for the salary of the organist, in order to stop the chanting. Some half-dozen devoted admirers of the new system, however, subscribed the amount and the parishioners had to submit to chanting for another twelve months. Meanwhile the congregation diminished, and many respectable families left the church. On Thursday last the annual vestry meeting was held, when the whole question was again angrily discussed, and it was resolved, "that the organist and organ-blower be discharged," if possible to stop the chanting. A long correspondence was read at this meeting, from which it appears that the Bishop of Exeter will not interfere to forbid the obnoxious innovations, and the curate says it is absolutely out of his power to do anything. The church is consequently almost deserted.

In other parts of the bishop of Exeter's diocese, the clergy have generally thought it prudent to give up the use of the surplice, &c., although in most cases, it has been done with such an ill-grace as to prevent the return of a good understanding between them and the laity.

"THE BISHOP OF EXETER AT HIS DEVOTIONS."

Under this heading the *Western Times* of Saturday contains an interesting account of the observances at Trinity chapel, attended by the Bishop of Exeter, who resides at Bishopstowe, in the neighbourhood. We slightly condense the narrative:—"Trinity chapel, Torquay, is the favourite place of worship with Bishop Phillpotts, in that part of the diocese. It is near his marine villa of Bishopstowe, and a full congregation is generally drawn from the fashionable vicinity. You pay a shilling for your seat, if you are a stranger, and do not choose to locate yourself with the poor in the free seats. The shilling is paid on demand. Mr Smith, the minister—'priest' is a term which will better please him—has got rid of the reading desk which he found when he went to the chapel. He has, in his amenity, got rid of the clerk, the responses being given by an officiating minister and the congregation at large. Much chanting graces the service, and a choir, trained for the purpose, certainly shows an improvement in the mere musical part of the service. A sort of music stand on a swivel is placed for the reading desk; on one side stands a prayer book, with a large gilt cross on the cover, that holy symbol being visible to the whole flock, and being intended to act upon their feelings with a calm and tranquillising influence. Standing at this concern on the swivel—pardon my ignorance of the professional name—the priest reads the prayers; when he wants to read the lessons from holy writ, he spins it round, and then the bible is ready to his hand. An ordinary attendant at an old fashioned church will be struck with the quantity of chanting going on. But the greatest novelty observable—I am speaking of three Sundays back—was at the reading of the offertory sentences; Bishop Phillpotts read one of the sentences, and, as soon as he had finished, one of the priests walked up to the middle of the 'altar,' and, falling on his knees, he bowed his head low, remaining prostrate, as if in prayer, for some time, and then rose and resumed his former station. The second sentence was then read, and another priest went through the same ceremony, walking up to the centre of the 'altar,' bowing low, and subsiding into a praying attitude. The third sentence was then read, and priest No. 3 did precisely what priest No. 1 and priest No. 2 had done. This, be it remembered, is how the 'business' was done at Torquay chapel, three Sundays back, Bishop Phillpotts being present and officiating. The remainder of the sentences were read without the marchings to the centre of the altar, the prostrations, or the absorbing attitude of prayer. Whether this ceremony is confined to the close of each of the first three sentences or not I am not able to say. Perhaps it was owing to the fact that there were no more priests. If a sufficient number of supernumeraries were engaged, perhaps the ceremony might be extended to the close of each of the sentences. In the middle of the 'altar' was a large bunch of flowers—what in the language of the protestant laity would be called a bouquet, but the name of which, as an aid to devotion, I am ignorant of. Before this bunch of flowers they bowed down, for it was in the centre of the 'altar;' but whether there was a cross enveloped in the bunch, or behind it, is a matter of conjecture. Three weeks ago they did the service as I have described. Last Sunday there were no flowers, no bowings, no kneeling. I now come to the service of Sunday last, which was altogether subdued, in tone and character, compared with what it was in the palmy days of the close of 1844, and even as late as Sunday three weeks. Bishop Phillpotts was present, and took part on the present occasion. The chapel was tolerably well filled—it always is when the Bishop preaches. There was chanting as before, and nearly the same observances, but no flowers at the 'altar'—no stalking out to bow down, for there was no offertory. The offertory, I was told, had been discontinued, in consequence of Mr Kitson, the churchwarden, having claimed all the money collected. This gentleman is a lawyer,

connected with a bank, and agent to Sir Lawrence Palk, who owns all the land of the place. He is a man, therefore, possessed of much local influence." Another correspondent writes:—"On Sunday last he (Mr P. Smith), fearing some unpleasant demonstration on the part of many of his congregation, requested one of the assistants at Torre to come down and do duty. Accordingly, the clergyman arrived, and brought with him his black gown, which, on Mr Smith perceiving, he was told he could not be permitted to preach in, and, consequently, Mr Smith was compelled to do duty himself, and preached a most extraordinary sermon to his congregation. A committee of the principal and eldest worshippers of the chapel have waited on him, to request him to alter his mode of proceeding, and return to the old usage of the black gown, &c., &c.; but he has set them all at defiance, telling them that he is independent in worldly means, and shall, therefore, do as he pleases. The churchwardens have served him with notice that they shall demand of him, on Sunday next, all the money collected in his chapel during the offertory. This morning, Wednesday, a meeting was held at the house of one of his congregation, of the principal and most influential members of his chapel, when they resolved once more to request him to return to the usage of the chapel for the last twenty years, or they would all relinquish their pews, which, indeed, a great many have already done, and filled Trinity (evangelical) to overflowing."

CASE OF MR J. SHORE, BRIDGETOWN, TOWNES.—That there is a difference of opinion among counsel as to this gentleman's case, some being of opinion that he is subject to ecclesiastical censure, while other counsel are of opinion that he is protected by the Toleration Act.

The *Times* of Saturday contains a short and pithy letter calling upon the bishops of London and Exeter to resign, since "the people of England expect it." The letter enjoys the full benefit of a most conspicuous place, leader type, and "leads."

SUCCESS OF THE OFFERTORY.—A churchwarden, who was requested by one of the new-light successors of the apostles to superintend that now important rite, says he was, one Sunday, surprised to see a young man in fustian, apparently a farm servant, very eagerly approach the plate, and deposit a shilling. As he did not retire, the farmer asked him what he wanted. "Me change," replied the rustic, "hand vore ninepence." The ninepence was accordingly handed to him (for the money changers have not yet left the temple), and the lad departed in the odour of sanctity. On examination, however, the shilling proved a mere brazen-faced deception, and the ninepence change was, therefore, clear profit to the pious donor.—*Western Times*.

CONDEMNATION OF TRACT 90.—The requisition for the condemnation of Tract 90, by convocation, has, we understand, been presented to the Hebdomadal Board, and although only a few days have been occupied in obtaining signatures, it has been signed by upwards of 300 leading members of convocation, including the names of several noblemen, members of the episcopal bench, members of parliament, and many other distinguished members of the convocation.

IN THE LOWEST DEPTHS A LOWER DEEP.—There would appear to be no limit to the ingenuity of theological rancour. The Free church in Aberdeen had succeeded in obtaining a site for the manse and place of worship. The house was, by necessity, close upon the march of the Earl of Moray's property. Of course, its erection could not be prevented; but, the moment it was complete, Mr Ainslie, the factor, threw up a dead wall right before the windows, thus rendering the manse uninhabitable. It is pleasing to think that such instances of small vindictiveness generally defeat their own purposes. It is said that a manse will rise in a brief period of time upon a more favourable locality. A site has been obtained, and subscriptions are begun.—*Fife Herald*.

TO DISSENTERS.—A scheme has been commenced in Annan for buying up the debt on secession churches. It has been completely successful. Say the debt is £200. The sum is made up by subscription from the congregation, in shares of £1 each. It is then handed to the managers, to be employed to liquidate the debt, under the condition that the congregation bind themselves to raise the yearly interest to be employed in supplying the wants of the aged, the sick, the widow, and the orphan. Go and do likewise.—*Fife Herald*.

TAXATION OF THE STATE CHURCH IN JAMAICA.—It appears that the episcopal state church in this colony has 78 ministers; of these, 15, including the bishop, are supported by the government and charitable societies, leaving 63 to be supported by the colony. The amount to be paid out of the public taxes to support these, amounts to £27,795; of parochial taxes, for church purposes and education, connected with the state church averages, during the last three years, £26,598, making a total of £54,393 per annum. Of the ministers of religion of all denominations in the island, the census return gives the number 267. If, therefore, they and their establishments were to be supported in like manner by the state, the amount necessary to be raised would be £230,522. The amount divided among a population of 377,433, would amount to about 12s. 2½d. per head, to be raised for church purposes.—*Baptist Herald*.

THE USE OF MONEY.—It is not the plenty of meat that nourishes, but a good digestion; neither is it abundance of wealth that makes us happy, but the discreet using it.

Correspondence.

"A PROPOSAL FOR AIDING THE CHURCHES
IN THE CHOICE OF A PASTOR."

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—I have been a member of the Congregational Union for several years, and still think, as I did on joining it, that it is calculated to further the best plans of our churches for the diffusion of Christian doctrine and duty, provided always that the labours of the Union accord with the congregational system and Christian liberty.

But a letter in the *Christian Witness* for this month, headed as above, and signed "J. A. James"—a name deservedly respected by multitudes—has, I confess, created suspicion and uneasiness in my mind. I like neither its spirit nor its object. There is about it an offensive egotism unworthy of Mr James—a sort of authoritative dictation inconsistent with the boasted simplicity of our form of church government. Its object, doubtless, is suggested by the purest motives; but realise the plan adumbrated at the Norwich meeting of the Union, and elaborated in the letter before me, and either one-half the number of the associated churches must withdraw their adhesion to the Union, or the principle of independency must be laid at the feet of the "aristocracy of dissent." The supporters of the project to erect a house of call for destitute churches and "moveable ministers," will be found amongst the contemners of the Anti-state-church Association—at which Mr James casts a condescending glance in passing—and the abettors of Dr Vaughan's Quarterly. But will the friends of truth and liberty, who are wearied with the everlasting cycles in which our ecclesiastical affairs seem destined to move, stand quietly by, and see a centralising power monopolising the pulpits of English congregationalists? That the working of the plan would result in a species of spiritual despotism, I have seen too much of mankind to doubt. A system of galling bondage, created and strengthened by a sense of obligation to the stipendiary officer and his coadjutors, would forbid that liberty of speech and action which belongs to us as citizens, and which is absolutely essential to the minister of the gospel. Indeed, when Mr James speaks of village preachers and town missionaries, "usefully employed as long they were under direction and control," but who, "when once they start from their own orbit, and move in that of the pastorate, make wretched work of it," we are at no loss as to the character of the favoured personages who are henceforth to eat the loaves and fishes of the Carr's Lanes of our land. Look up, ye time-servers, expediency-men, parasites, and echos!

It is, I must say, with all respect for Mr James, hardly courteous, hardly just, to speak of the "conceit, ignorance, and impudence" of some who had been town missionaries, but who, becoming "pastors of small churches," had "ruined the congregations that enticed them from their own appropriate spheres." I have known some town missionaries—pious, laborious, intelligent men—whose opinions on the great questions of the day had more sound philosophy about them than is usually found in the organs of some noisy unions; I know some useful, able, and successful pastors in England, at this moment, who have been village preachers and town missionaries; but, alas! their great fault is that they are over small churches; and I also know some churches who sadly regret that they invited, on the recommendation of "influential parties," young, inexperienced men, from college, to become their pastors, and who are of opinion that two or three years' labour as town missionaries and village preachers would be of incalculable advantage to our students before they accept the responsibility of large congregations.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,
Feb. 3rd, 1845. A. B. C.

BRONCHITIC AFFECTIONS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—Permit me to occupy a short space in your valuable columns, by giving a few hints which have been suggested to my mind since perusing the somewhat amusing extract from the American "Methodist Quarterly Review" for October, 1844, respecting one cause of bronchitic affections. The reviewer advises ministers of the gospel to wear beards, in order to prevent diseases of the throat. If novelty is any recommendation, this piece of advice possesses that quality; but I never expect to see it acted upon. The present practice of shaving appears to be too firmly established to be relinquished, and perhaps some would consider its abandonment as a step backwards to that state of barbarism from which we often flatter ourselves that we have entirely emerged. The reviewer may be right in his view of the subject. This I will not controvert, but present a few rules which I can, after ten years' experience, strongly recommend to travelers, public speakers, and ministers of the gospel.

1. *Avoid hot food and liquids.* They injure the teeth and weaken the stomach. When the stomach is deranged, from any cause, the body is more susceptible of taking what is termed "cold," which often manifests itself in affections of the throat. Colds are often attributed solely to draughts, damp, and changes in the weather, when the feeble and deranged state of the stomach is chiefly to blame. Those who have any regard for health ought scrupulously to avoid hot substances. As a general rule, cold food and liquids are most conducive to health.

2. *Abstain from all intoxicating liquors.*—Above all other persons, ministers and public speakers ought rigidly to observe this valuable rule of health. They will be less subject to bronchitic affections by such a course. There are other advantages of no trifling character: they will be very little troubled with thirst—have a less feverish state of the system, and less fatigue after bodily or mental exertion—more freedom from numerous bodily ailments—greater capability for arduous exertion—more clearness of intellect—and last, but not least, their usefulness will be augmented in no small degree.

3. *In shaving, use cold water.*—Warm water renders the skin more tender, and consequently more liable to be affected by cold in traveling, or in passing out of a warm atmosphere into the open air. It is of advantage, too, to be independent of the small pitcher of hot water every morning, whether at home or abroad, but particularly when at the house of a friend.

4. *Abolition of the body in cold water* is another important rule. By keeping the system in a more healthy

state, it renders it more hardy and vigorous. The skin has important functions to discharge, and if more attention were paid to its healthy action, bronchial affections, consumption, and a host of other disorders would be less frequent.

5. *In traveling, use no coats, and put no shawls or large kerchiefs round the neck.* The common plan of muffing up the neck, chin, and throat, is decidedly objectionable. I have traveled thousands of miles without using anything of the sort, and have scarcely suffered from bronchial affections at all.

6. *Do not speak too long or too loudly.* Public speaking and reading aloud, within proper limits, are beneficial to health, as they call into exercise a great number of muscles. Though shouting and vociferous speaking are censurable, there is a more common fault, which may here be noticed. In giving out hymns, texts, and commencing a prayer or discourse, many ministers are scarcely audible—and often not at all—a great number of their hearers. If they knew how painful and irritating this is to many of their hearers, I think they would avoid this common but reprehensible practice. A clear and distinct utterance should be given to everything. *Verb. sap.*

By strict attention to these simple rules, ministers and others will derive much advantage. I have tested their value under a considerable variety of circumstances, and should be glad to find that these hints have proved serviceable to even one individual.

Yours most respectfully, J.

York, Jan. 31, 1845.

General News.

FOREIGN.

AMERICA.

The packet ship *Stephen Whitney* brings four days' later intelligence from New York.

Texas forms, as usual, the most prominent topic in Congress, but it is all talk—nothing has been done—and the probability is, that the session will glide over, leaving the annexation untouched. General Jackson, annoyed that the measure is not carried out with a high hand, had published a letter in one of the papers, in which he states that if it is not done now, it will have hereafter to be done by the sword!

Governor Porter, of Pennsylvania, states the whole amount of tax assessed for the past four years at 3,013,724 dollars; of which only 1,825,050 dollars has been received; leaving 1,188,674 dollars still outstanding on the 1st of December. Of this sum, together with the 800,000 dollars, outstanding for 1844, the Governor thinks 1,260,000 dollars will be received. He adds—"If the provisions of the act of 1844 be fairly carried into effect in the valuation of property, and the collection and prompt payment of the tax be enforced, the annual revenue hereafter to be derived from that source will amount to at least 1,500,000 dollars. This sum, with the other resources of the commonwealth, will be entirely adequate to furnish the necessary amount to discharge the interest upon the public debt, and thus insure the fidelity of the state to her engagements."

FRANCE.

In consequence of the virtual defeat sustained by the French cabinet as mentioned in the postscript of our last number, relative to the indemnity to Mr Pritchard, a portion of the ministry waited upon Louis Philippe to tender their resignation. This the King refused to hear of, and expressed his strong determination to support ministers throughout. The cabinet accordingly consented to remain.

On the 29th ult. the ministry is said to have received the adhesions of no less than forty-seven hitherto dissenting members. At a meeting of 211 conservative members, held on the same day, the motion of M. Hartmann, that a deputation should wait on Marshal Soult to express to him the respects and confidence of the conservative party, was unanimously agreed to. A committee appointed to represent the meeting accordingly attended on the president, who replied that neither he nor his colleagues would resign. In the evening the "address" was presented to the King at the Tuileries, who, surrounded by his family, cordially expressed his satisfaction on receiving it.

The *Moniteur* of Sunday publishes a royal ordinance, appointing the Count de Salvandy minister of public instruction, in the place of M. Villemain. M. de Salvandy being one of the vice-presidents of the Chamber, that office necessarily became vacant by his acceptance of a place under the government; and, in the present position of the Chambers, the cabinet was unwilling to encounter another contest with M. Billault. It has, however, been arranged that the new government candidate for the vice-presidency shall be taken from among those members who abstained from voting on the Tahiti paragraph of the address; and, on this condition, it is understood that the opposition will not start a candidate, so that the government candidate will "walk over."

The *Times*' Paris correspondent writes on Sunday as follows, respecting the ministerial crisis:—

"If they (ministers) fall, it will be before the united efforts of a coalition which, however numerically superior to the adherents of ministers, might, if they were to act together, prevent ministers from carrying the Secret Service Money bill. The resolve of the opposition to prevent, by desisting from voting in a division on that bill, the formation of 'a house,' remains unaltered; but there appears already some doubt about the adherence of all to that determination. It is even said that some of them contemplate voting the entire sum demanded, 'with the exception of £1000 (25,000f.),' meaning—but without naming it—the Pritchard indemnity. This would be pitiful work; and, in fact, I am assured that since Friday the whole question has assumed a new aspect. 'Ministers will,' says my authority—and it is of the highest—barring accidents, get through the session; but it will be their last. The Chambers will positively

be dissolved in August. In the new Chamber the present cabinet will not have a hundred friends."

According to the *Constitutionnel*, "the friends of M. Guizot think that they have found the means of removing one of his difficulties: the twenty deputies who demanded a ballot on Monday have subscribed each a thousand francs to pay the Pritchard indemnity, in order that the cabinet may not be compelled to apply to the Chamber for the funds."

SPAIN.

The Madrid correspondent of the *Times* gives the following account of the strife and intrigues now going in that capital:—

There is now no doubt whatever of Narvaez's anxiety to throw himself into the arms of the faction of the coalition party of progresistas, while he is determined to persecute to the death all those who have made themselves remarkable by their attachment to Espartero. Prim has been pardoned, and will receive a most lucrative and influential place, because he had pronounced against the regent; whilst Rodil is ignominiously deprived of his honours and titles, and dismissed from the army. Milans is released from prison, and reinstated in his former employment. The fact is, and it cannot be concealed any longer, Narvaez is on the brink of a precipice. If the following be correct, and I have heard persons of good authority assert it to be a fact, there can be little doubt but that open warfare is already declared between the Queen-mother and the President of the Council. A council of ministers assembled a few days since in the apartments of the Minister of State in the royal palace. Narvaez was not present when the deliberations began. He shortly afterwards entered the room, and was informed that they were discussing the necessity of restoring the property, sold and unsold, to the nuns. When Narvaez was made acquainted with the subject of their deliberations, he declared himself totally opposed to any such restitution. Martinez de la Rosa remonstrated with him, and announced that the Queen-mother had solemnly pledged herself to his Holiness, as a condition of forgiveness, that, however the property of the monks might be settled, the nuns, if ever again she enjoyed influence in Spain, should have back the whole of what was taken from them, and that they were at that moment deliberating as to the means of raising the money necessary to compensate the present proprietors for the improvements and outlay they had made during the period of their proprietorship. Narvaez, on hearing this, fell into one of his usual fits of ungovernable fury. Making use of some very violent expressions, he declared that he cared nothing either for the Pope or the Queen-mother—the only Queen he recognised was Isabella II.; and he asked Martinez de la Rosa how he presumed to hold any communication with the Queen or the Pope either, he (Narvaez) being President of the Council. He snatched up his hat, and cried out that he would go on the spot, and inform Maria Christina what he thought on the subject. It was eleven o'clock at night. He went up stairs, and instantly demanded an interview of the Queen-mother. He then demanded of her if what had been just told him was the fact, that she had promised the Pope to use all her influence to restore the whole of their property to the nuns. She replied in the affirmative. He announced his intention of resisting to the utmost of his power the consummation of such an act. After a lengthened and an angry dialogue, she told him that if she could not effect her purpose, she had no business in Spain, and that she would leave the country with her husband. The fiery minister snatched up his hat, and bowing haughtily, replied, "Your Majesty is at perfect liberty to go wherever you please and when you please," and left the room instantly. He rejoined the council, which soon after broke up "in much admired disorder."

The same authority further asserts, that the country was never in a more critical position, and reports of disobedience to the authority of Narvaez, and risings in Catalonia, were very prevalent.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

CATHOLICISM IN GERMANY.—BRESLAU, Jan. 19.—The Roman Catholics of this city who have resolved to withdraw from the supremacy of Rome, will take the first decisive step. We hear in a few days there is to be a general meeting, as M. Ronge will state his views respecting the measures which are now necessary. It is, indeed, high time that this indecision and inactivity should have an end.

PROGRESS OF PROTESTANTISM IN FRANCE.—The following statistical account of protestantism in France has just been published:—In 1815, there were 464 protestant pastors; in 1830, 527; in 1843, 677; and now there are more than 700. Under the empire, the budget of the protestant church was 306,000f.; under the restoration, 476,000f.; and in 1843, 1,219,000f. The number of protestant churches has increased in proportion, but there are still 111 localities without them. The number of protestants in France is given at 4,000,000. Within the last few years no less than thirty-three villages in the north of France have renounced Romanism, and embraced protestant Christianity.

FUNDS OF THE PROPAGANDA.—The Paris journals state, that the receipts of the society instituted at Lyons for the propagation of the Catholic faith, amounted, in 1844, to 3,562,088 francs. France had contributed 1,835,025f.

MOROCCO.—The *Moniteur Algerien* of the 20th January announces that Abd-el-Kader remains at Sebra, in Morocco; and that his camp and his deira are well supplied by the religious gifts of the true believers. The *Algerie* says:—"From all provinces of the empire deputations from the Berbers have visited him in his retreat, bringing him offerings, saluting him as the regenerator of Islamism, and offering him the assistance of their arms to combat the Christians and to overthrow the dynasty which oppresses them, and which has abdicated the religious sovereignty by declaring impious the martyr of the faith, who during fourteen years defended his God his religion, and his country."

There are at present more than thirty bishops assembled at Paris, where they hold meetings, under

the presidency of the Archbishop of Paris, to arrange plans to defeat the bill about to be introduced, for regulating the mode of affording secondary instruction.

DREADFUL SUFFERINGS AT SEA.—The American brig *Gazelle*, Captain Philbrook, from Bangor, United States, bound to Port-au-Prince, was capsized in latitude 30°, longitude 64°, on the morning of the 12th December, while lying-to in a gale of wind. She immediately filled with water, and turned bottom up; but soon righted again, with the loss of three men. The decks were swept of everything movable, and the bulwarks were gone. During twenty-four days the crew were on the wreck, with only a few beef-bones and pork-rinds as food, and no water but what fell from the heavens. The appearance of nine vessels during this period repeatedly tantalised them, but no aid came. At last, the *Tamerlane*, an American ship bound from Savannah to Liverpool, bore down and rescued them. Captain Theobald, the master of the *Tamerlane*, treated them with great care and humanity, and has brought them to Liverpool. When taken on board the *Tamerlane*, the poor wretches looked more like marble statues than living men.

THE THAMES TUNNEL SURPASSED.—We find the following extraordinary account set forth in a letter from Marseilles, in the *Débats*:—"There has been long known, or believed, to exist, at Marseilles, a tunnel, or submarine passage, passing from the ancient abbey of Saint Victoire, running under the arm of the sea, which is covered with ships, and coming out under a tower of Fort Saint Nicholas. Many projects for exploring this passage have been entertained, but hitherto no one has been found sufficiently bold to persevere in it. M. Joyland, of the Ponts-et-Chaussées, and M. Matayras, an architect, have, however, not only undertaken, but accomplished, this task. Accompanied by some friends and a number of labourers, they went, a few days ago, to the abbey, and descended the numerous steps that led to the entrance of the passage. Here they were the first day stopped by heaps of the ruins of the abbey. Two days afterwards, however, they were able to clear their way to the other end, and came out at port Saint Nicholas, after working two hours and twenty minutes. The structure, which is considered to be Roman, is in such excellent condition that, in order to put it into complete repair, a cost of no more than 500,000*f.* will be required; but a much larger outlay will be wanted to render it serviceable for modern purposes. This tunnel is deemed much finer than that of London, being formed of one single vault of sixty feet span, and one-fourth longer."

MASSACHUSETTS ANTI-SLAVERY FAIR.—The *Boston Liberator*, December 27, contains a notice of the Christmas "fair" on behalf of the Massachusetts Anti-slavery Society. Among the articles for sale were useful and ornamental contributions from almost every part of Europe, Asia, and America, including "an elegant table cover, wrought for the fair by Harriet Martineau, in four alternate groups of flowers, fruits, and evergreens, significant of the four seasons;" also, "oblong buff-braid netting, and baskets lined with blue and cherry-coloured quilted silk, by the same hand;" with "four sketches of Harriet Martineau's rooms at Tynemouth, and the views from the windows."

THE EMPRESS OF RUSSIA.—The *German Gazette* announces, that most unfavourable accounts had been received at Vienna relative to the health of the Empress of Russia.

PERSECUTION IN MADEIRA.—The *Edinburgh Weekly Chronicle* publishes a letter from Madeira containing the following statement of facts:—

1. That Dr Kalley has never received any compensation for his five months' imprisonment for the crime of teaching the scriptures, and that legal proceedings are again about to be instituted against him!
2. That Maria Joaquina (who, after twelve months' imprisonment, was brought to trial and condemned to death for avowing protestant doctrines) is still in Funchal jail!
3. That twenty-two other persons are now in prison, charged with the crime of reading the bible!
4. That the person who passed sentence of death upon Maria Joaquina, imprisoned the others, and refused bail from Dr Kalley, is the British Judge Conservator, Dr Negrao, a Portuguese lawyer, who is specially appointed and paid by the British government a salary of 400 dollars a year to protect the lives of British subjects!!

LOUIS PHILIPPE AND ENGLISH ART.—The bust for which his Majesty Louis Philippe gave so many sittings to Mr Jones, the sculptor, of London, has been cast in the Musée Royal, and is considered by the King and royal family to be so perfect a likeness, that he has ordered two marble copies, one for himself, and the other for the Queen of England. His Majesty has been pleased to place the bust of Sir William Magnay, Bart., (late Lord Mayor of London,) done by Mr Jones, amongst his collection, and has presented Mr Jones with a magnificent gold medal.

BLOCKADE OF MADAGASCAR.—The *Breton*, of Nantes, publishes a letter from Bourbon, of the 7th of November, stating, that the English governor of the Mauritius had officially notified to the French authorities the blockade of Madagascar. It appears, from the correspondence of that journal, that an English officer of the royal navy had been reduced to slavery, and sold by order of the Queen of the Hovas, and that it was in consequence of this act that the blockade was declared.

The stewardship of Greenwich park (which has been erroneously described as the rangership), vacant by the death of her late Royal Highness the Princess Sophia Matilda of Gloucester, has been conferred upon the Earl of Aberdeen.

DOMESTIC.

METROPOLITAN.

THE AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION SOCIETY.—On Monday, the members of the Agricultural Protection Society for Great Britain and Ireland, dined together at the Freemasons' tavern. The number of persons present on the occasion amounted to about nine hundred; and the great hall was scarcely large enough to accommodate comfortably so great a number, a portion of the company sat down to dinner in one of the ante-rooms. Among the company were the Duke of Richmond (chairman), the Duke of Buckingham (vice-chairman), the Duke of Montrose, Lord Beaumont, Lord Ossulston, the Earl of Malmesbury, the Earl of Essex, Lord Southampton, Viscount Hill, Lord Sondes, Viscount Ingestre, Viscount Campden, Sir J. Rae Reid, Bart, M.P., Sir A. Hood, Bart, Colonel Rolleston, M.P., Hon. Eliot Yorke, M.P., and a large number of members of parliament. Lord Beaumont was the first speaker of importance. He mentioned the various acts of the present ministry, showing a free-trade tendency—pointed out what he conceived to be their disastrous effects—and strongly urged all protection societies to be up and stirring to resist any further attempts in that direction. Mr Baker, of Writtle, Mr F. Hobbs, Mr Miles, M.P., and Mr Newdigate, M.P., followed to the same effect. They all spoke of the necessity of uniting to resist any further movement on the part of government to diminish protection. Mr Mills, of Enford, Wiltshire, in proposing "the landlords," said:—

There was one measure to which he wished particularly to refer. They could feel the effects of it yet; it was working insidiously—he meant the Canada Corn act. If they combined to make an attack on that measure, they would do much to remove a source of past injury pregnant with future evils. Then with respect to another injury to the agricultural interest—the opening our markets to the graziers of the continent; it was impossible to say what might be the extent of that injury. He defied any minister to tell. On the continent the agriculturists had fertile lands, they had cheap linseed, and everything cheap [hear, hear]; and they would shortly send over here such a number of cattle as would very seriously injure the farmers of this country. Then there was at present there the pestilence among the cattle [hear, hear]. Would the government permit diseased cattle to be sent here for food [cries of "Hear, hear"]? The government was bound to protect all classes—the plough, the loom, and the sail. As an extensive landlord himself, and speaking among extensive landlords, he was anxious to enforce the propriety and advantage of offering permanent improvements, and so increase the quantity of consumable food to be raised. He would wish to see this method substituted in place of remissions of 5 or 10 per cent. of the rent.

The Earl of Malmesbury expressed his opinion that these late ministerial measures could not now be repealed. They would deceive themselves if they acted on that supposition. More years must first elapse to convince the public that they were deeply injurious to the British farmer. At any rate, he knew that with the present ministry there was no chance of their repeal. He trusted the agriculturists would tell the minister, "Thus far shall you go; this amount of protection which we have we will retain" [vehement cheers]. Mr Sotherton, M.P., in proposing as a toast "The tenant farmers," said—He trusted landlords would not put up farms to tender [loud cheers], and when experience had shown that rent and taxes could not be paid, come forward and offer a paltry average of reductions [loud cheers]. They were attacked, as they knew, by a powerful body; but he could assure them, that if the landlord was assailed, through his body would pass the spear that would enter into the farmer's heart [cheers]. Mr Jonas, of Ickleton, Cambridgeshire, returned thanks. The cry, he observed, on one side had been "Cultivate, cultivate;" he, in the name of the tenant farmers, replied, "Remunerate, remunerate." Give them the prices which they ought to have, and rest assured they would not shrink from carrying out those improvements which would be of so much benefit to the country. Mr Stafford O'Brien, in an unimportant speech, proposed "The labourers." In a laudatory speech, the health of the President was proposed by the Duke of Buckingham, which was drunk with tremendous and long-continued cheering. The Duke of Richmond, in returning thanks, said:—

He felt that, if agricultural protection was diminished one iota more than at present, landlords, tenantry, and labourers would cease to exist as a class in this country. He felt that agricultural protection societies had been of great service; if they had not been, did any one believe that the League would have heaped on them so much personal abuse? A little before this time last year was it not spread about by the League that the question of the corn laws was not a landlord's but a tenant's question? but, if that had been the opinion of the tenants, would they have heard anything of their making votes for counties [loud cheers]? There could not be a doubt that the landlords of England could trust their tenants; he knew it from his knowledge of the tenantry, and he declared that he would rather lose every acre he possessed than let his farms go tender [vehement cheering]. The health of the Duke of Buckingham, the vice-president, was then drunk, and suitably acknowledged by his Grace, who did not fail to sound his own trumpet. The remaining proceedings of the meeting were unimportant.

MEETING IN HONOUR OF T. S. DUNCOMBE, ESQ., M.P.—About 300 persons assembled at a public *soirée* on Monday evening, at White Conduit house, to do honour to Thomas Slingsby Duncombe, Esq. Dr Wade took the chair, supported by Mr Duncombe and Mr Feargus O'Connor. Mr Roberts, a delegate from the Miners' association, was also present. After tea the chairman read letters from Messrs Leader, Thompson, Sharman Crawford, and Wakley, in which they stated their inability to at-

tend, but expressed a warm concurrence in the object of the meeting. The first sentiment was "The people, and may they soon obtain their just rights," which was duly proposed in a speech by the chairman. Mr Moore, a Finsbury elector, proposed the health of Thomas Duncombe, Esq., the friend and supporter of the people in all their just claims. Mr Duncombe was received with most enthusiastic greetings. He thanked the meeting for their approbation of his conduct in parliament during the past session, and in all other parliaments. Mr Moore had expressed a hope that he would not forget the post-office question, that stain upon England's honour. He had given notice last session of his intention of calling the attention of the House to the unsatisfactoriness of the report of the secret committee that sat upon that subject. He had not forgotten it, and to-morrow he intended renewing that notice. He had been told that the secret office in the Post office had been shut up within the last few days, and the clerks all sent to the right about; he thought that the secret office was only removed to the Home office, to be more accessible for the Home Secretary. Through this espionage, certain patriotic persons had been imprisoned in the Neapolitan kingdom, and in the papal dominions. For this good service to the Pope, Sir Robert Peel was now asking a favour in return; he was asking the Pope to exercise his political authority, if he possessed any, and his spiritual authority over O'Connell, in order to persuade him to nourish a more favourable feeling towards the tory government. With regard to the conference of the trades that was about to be held, he would say that if the trades thought it necessary for the purpose of establishing greater unity and organisation amongst them, let them come together. In conclusion Mr Duncombe again thanked the meeting for the honour and approbation conferred upon him. The meeting was afterwards addressed by Mr Feargus O'Connor and several other gentlemen.

THE WINDOW TAX.—On Thursday a respectable meeting was held in St Anne's, Westminster, to petition parliament to repeal the window tax. Mr Aird, churchwarden, was called to the chair. Dr Hardins said the medical officers of St James's parish had some time ago been so struck with the condition of the poor, that they established a fund for the purpose of procuring better ventilation and greater cleanliness, but they found it impossible to effect this object without interfering with the provisions of the window tax. Mr Norman stated that he was the leaseholder of five houses in that parish, rated at £120 per annum; they were old-fashioned houses, and paid double the amount of window taxes which any five houses that might be rated at £1,000 per annum would pay. That was a striking illustration of the inequality of the window tax. Resolutions were agreed to, and embodied in a petition. Mr Young wished they had assembled to petition against the income tax, which was a still greater burden than the window tax. At the weekly meeting of the Marylebone vestry, attended by Sir C. Napier, M.P., Mr Hume, M.P., Sir J. M'Taggart, and other influential persons, a resolution to petition parliament for the immediate repeal of the window tax was unanimously adopted.

LONDON ORPHAN ASYLUM.—At the annual meeting of the subscribers to this institution, the resignation of Dr Reed of the office of secretary was announced, and the following resolutions passed relative to it:—

"The board have the painful duty to report the resignation of their old and valued Secretary, the Rev. Dr Reed, who, from the commencement of the institution until the middle of the past year, a period of thirty-one years, devoted so much of his valuable time and pre-eminent talents to the well-being of the family and the prosperity of the institution, and they feel that they owe to him a deep debt of gratitude."

"The board have much pleasure in recommending that the name of the Rev. Dr Reed be added to the list of vice-presidents, together with those of James Capel, Esq., and William Kirby, Esq., as a small token of respect for their long and invaluable services to the charity."

"The board beg to state, that, after mature consideration, they have unanimously resolved to apply to parliament for an act of incorporation."

Votes of thanks were then given to Alderman Thompson, for his services as treasurer, and to Dr Reed, for his long and valuable services as honorary secretary. A vote of thanks was next resolved upon to Mr E. F. Champneys, for his gratuitous services as secretary, and he was re-elected secretary for the ensuing year. Mr W. Cotes was elected lay secretary. A vote of thanks having been given to the Chairman, the subscribers proceeded to poll for the admission of candidates.

CIVIL DISABILITIES OF THE JEWS.—It is understood that at a meeting of the London Committee of Deputies of British Jews, it was determined to take measures for removing, if possible, the civil disabilities of the Jews, and an application is about to be made to ministers for their support on the question.

THE FOUNTAINS IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE.—On Monday, workmen commenced the erection of the masonry in the basins of Trafalgar square, previous to the laying down of the pipes. The blocks are of red granite, and each weighs several tons. The works are expected to be completed in about two months.

The new Conservative Club house, erected on the site of the late Thatched House tavern, on the west side of St James's street, will be opened, with much ceremony, on Monday next, the 10th instant.

THE GREAT BRITAIN STEAMER.—This interesting monster remains at her moorings off Blackwall, and is daily visited by crowds of people. The charge to

see the interior is 3s. 6d. A correspondent of the *Times* gives the following interesting particulars about her:—"The Great Britain has evidently been built not for ornament, but for use. She might easily have been made more graceful, and perhaps without any sacrifice of power or safety. There is an appearance of iron-bound strength which inspires confidence. The interior is fitted up on the same principle. There is nothing gay or gaudy; on the contrary, if there be a fault in the arrangements, it is perhaps that they are too plain, hard, and cold (so to speak) for comfort and ease. For this reason the accommodation for fore-cabin passengers is nearly as good as that in the chief cabin. It would have been next to impossible to render them more plain. On the other hand, though ornament has been used perhaps too sparingly, every provision is made for the full accommodation of the passengers. The ladies have two sitting rooms, separate from the main room—a vast saloon, in which 300 persons can dine. The ladies' berths, too, are so situated as to give them the utmost light and air. There is a promenade deck immediately over the dining room, and sheltered by the other deck from the air. In fact, there is all that can be required by the most fastidious voyager, except that there is a total absence of that costly and luxurious ornament to which the public are now accustomed in large steamers. Visitors to the ship should not omit seeing the engine-room, containing all of the machinery that is not boxed in and hidden—the life and moving principle of this marine giantess. The engine is of stupendous magnitude; the great wheel (which works a smaller wheel that turns the screw) spans nearly the whole breadth of the vessel: and there is stowage for 2,000 tons of coals.

DEMOLITION OF "KING'S CROSS."—The famous statue of George the Fourth, at King's cross, erected some years since at Battle bridge, from the design and under the superintendence of a gentleman named Geary, is now being rased to the ground. This unfortunate building was always a subject of ridicule.

The total number of deaths in the metropolis during the week ending last Saturday was 1,002. The weekly average for the last five winters has been 1,039 of the winters, and 963 of the whole years. The number of births in the week was 1,340.

CASE OF CARUS WILSON.—The Court of Queen's Bench decided on Friday that the judges have a right to issue a writ of *habeas corpus* affecting the Island of Jersey, and would enforce obedience to it. "And," said Lord Denman, "the court would not give any encouragement to any doubt as to whether any inconvenience which might result from the exercise of their power could justify their lordships, or any other judge who possessed the same power, in refusing or delaying its exercise under circumstances in which, according to his discretion, the writ ought to issue." Mr Carus Wilson, it appears, then, is to be brought up on the 12th of February.

DOING BUSINESS ON THE STREET.—At the Guildhall police, on Thursday, a serjeant of police, Pattern 308, was summoned for assaulting a man who sold paper, almanacks, and such things, on the street, to the annoyance of neighbouring shopkeepers. Alderman Hughes decided finally that people had a right to sell things on the street if they did so in a quiet way, and that if any of the inhabitants felt any annoyance in their doing so they must bring some specific charge against them, and he would then deal with the case. In the present instance he would give the complainant half-a-crown out of the poor box for the damage he had sustained.

MURDER AT BETHNAL GREEN.—Emma Whiter, a young woman in her twenty-first year, the daughter of a silk weaver, was murdered shortly after midnight on Tuesday, in Cross street, Bethnal green. James Tapping, a young man of bad character, is in custody for the crime. He was "keeping company" with the girl, and was seen with her a few minutes before she was found dying from a pistol-shot in the head. There were also spots of blood on an apron which he wore when arrested shortly after the murder. When charged with the crime at the Bethnal Green police office, he made no defence, and he was remanded for a week. An inquest has commenced. Evidence was given, that shortly after the murder Tapping went to a public house, and made use of strange expressions; one exclamation being—"The deed is done, and it cannot be undone." A gunmaker proved that he repaired a pistol for Tapping, and gave him four bullets; the pistol was found by the woman's body, and two bullets have been taken out of her head which fit the gunmaker's mould. The inquiry was adjourned till Monday. On Monday morning the inquest on the body of Emma Whiter was resumed and concluded. The jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder against James Tapping." The coroner then proceeded to bind over the witnesses. During the whole of the inquiry the medical students, a number of whom were present, used every endeavour to interrupt the proceedings by making noises and pulling down the windows from the outside, contrary to the wishes of the coroner and jury.

The Complete Suffrage Movement.

Birmingham, Feb. 3, 1844.

The Council of the National Complete Suffrage Union met at 37, Waterloo street, Birmingham, on Monday, Mr. Sturge in the chair.

Letters were read from Edinburgh and London. The Secretary reported that the address, approved by the Executive Committee, was in the press, and would be forwarded to the members of the Council in a day or two.

The address to the citizens of America was briefly read, and will appear in our next.

MR VINCENT IN THE TOWER HAMLETS.—We perceive, from an advertisement in another column, that this eloquent advocate of the rights of man will deliver a lecture at the Eastern Institution, Commercial road, on Tuesday evening next. We need scarcely advise such of our readers as have the opportunity to be present on the occasion.

BRADFORD.—On Monday night week, Mr H. Vincent delivered the first of three lectures in the Temperance hall, on subjects connected with the political movements of the present day. The attendance was good. Mr Isaac Rowntree was called to the chair. The subject—The State and Prospects of Parties. The lecture is fully reported in the *Bradford Observer*, but we have only room for the following passage descriptive of democracy:—

Democracy, which he feared was yet looked on with contempt by some of the more powerful among the people, was the clearest development of the morality of the Christian religion of any of the principles broached in relation to the politics of the present day. What was it but that which ever and anon, in so many new forms, shook the mind of nations? What was it but the embodiment of the doctrine that God made of one flesh all the nations of the earth? What was it but a precept of Christianity struggling through the mud and dirt of the conventionalities and selfishness of the world? the great embodiment of the brotherhood of man striving to assert for itself its own dignity in the midst of party clamour? the light beaming on the peasant's mind and thrilling his soul with the conviction, I am the brother of the nobles of the earth? What was it but the assertion of a soul-inspiring principle, common to man in all stages of civilisation, a principle that had lived from the very birth of events, that could not die, which had existed through an eternity of life, and that will fight its way through all opposing influences? The proud man who hated to think that death was sure because he knew the beggar might perchance lie by his side in the grave, might deny this doctrine of the world's brotherhood; but was it the less true for that? was it not so with the other truths of Christianity when first divulged, and even after the death of the apostles of their divine promulgator? did they not meet those whose prejudices they opposed? yet still they remained distinct—living, eternal truths—carving their way through all opposition, and carrying conviction to the minds of all. So should it be with the truth of democracy; it should work itself into the soul of the world until it should start up into universal life with all its dignity and power.

The lecture occupied two hours in the delivery, and was warmly applauded throughout.

BRADFORD, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY.—Mr Vincent's second and third meetings were held on these nights. The audiences were larger than the first night, notwithstanding the charge for admission. The democratic principles enunciated by Mr Vincent were most enthusiastically greeted. The students from the independent and baptist colleges were present, and took a lively interest in the proceedings. A large number of electors were present. Votes of thanks were given to Mr Vincent, with hearty cheers.

LIVERPOOL.—On Saturday night Mr Vincent delivered an address on the principles of complete suffrage, and their bearing upon constitutional freedom. The Music hall was crowded. Mr Vincent was most enthusiastically received, and was listened to throughout with the greatest interest. A vote of thanks was given, with three times three cheers. Lawrence Heyworth, Esq., was in the chair.

Postscript.

Wednesday, February 5th, 1845.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Parliament was opened yesterday, by the Queen in person, with all the state and pageantry customary on the occasion. The preparations along the line of route of the royal procession were commenced at an early hour, and the streets filled with people rapidly as mid-day approached. By half-past twelve, the side benches of the body of the house, the gallery to the right of the throne, the strangers' and members of the House of Commons' galleries, and the space below the bar, were crowded with elegantly-dressed ladies. By two o'clock every seat was filled. There was a numerous attendance of the diplomatic body, but a thin attendance of peers. Her Majesty entered the house at a quarter past two, and immediately took her seat on the throne. Prince Albert accompanied the Queen, and both appeared in excellent health. The peers, peeresses, and company had all risen on the entrance of her Majesty, and remained standing, till her Majesty, bowing, begged their Lordships to be seated. The House of Commons were then summoned, and shortly afterward the speaker, accompanied by several members, appeared below the bar. The Lord Chancellor then presented the speech to her Majesty, who immediately proceeded to read it, with that beautifully clear enunciation and expression, which are so characteristic of her Majesty. The royal speech will be found in another column. Her Majesty having concluded, the speaker of the House of Commons bowed and left the bar with the members. The royal procession then left the House in the same order in which it had entered, and their Lordships adjourned during pleasure.

The business of the House of Lords yesterday began, as is usual on the first day of the session, with the reading, by the LORD CHANCELLOR, of the royal speech delivered from the throne at an earlier period of the day.

The address in reply, which, according to unvarying precedent, was a faithful echo of the speech, was moved by MARQUIS CAMDEN, and seconded by LORD GLENLYON, each of these noblemen confining themselves upon this, their first occasion of appearing before the House, pretty closely to the topics suggested in the speech.

The Marquis of NORMANBY, so far from moving any amendment upon the address, approved all that he had yet heard of the measures to be proposed by government; and promised that he, at least, would not taunt ministers with the inconsistency of their present proposals with their former professions. Previous attempts at the conciliation of Ireland had failed, principally in consequence of the indiscreet declarations with which they were accompanied; and the operation of the Bequests act of last session had been clogged by objections which might easily have been obviated, while the appointment of Roman catholic prelates upon the commission recently constituted was scarcely in accordance with the act of emancipation, and the recognition of their episcopal titles would expose the government to the imputation of injustice if that compliment were now in any case refused. He expressed his disapproval of the inquiry which had been in progress as to the tenure of land in Ireland as an unmixed evil, and he regretted to find that the result had justified his anticipations.

The Duke of RICHMOND complained that while their lordships were called upon to express their satisfaction at the national prosperity, no mention had been made of the agricultural body, or of the losses to which it had in the last year been subject. There was a Board of Trade which represented commerce and manufactures. Why was there not also a Board of Agriculture? He regretted also that no promise was held out of an alleviation of the hardship with which the income tax bore upon the agricultural tenant.

A noble LORD who followed, expressed his regret that any interference with the Scotch system of banking was contemplated.

LORD WHARNCLEFFE replied to both objectors by referring them to the paragraphs in the royal speech of which they respectively complained; and was followed by LORD BROUGHAM, who, after expressing his satisfaction in strong but general terms with the several paragraphs of the speech, dwelt especially upon the happy effects which had been produced in both countries by the visit of the King of the French and the improved state of public feeling towards England in that country.

LORD HARDWICK criticised the sentiments uttered by the Duke of Richmond.

The Marquis of LANDSDOWNE, after guarding himself from the impression that, because he moved no amendment, he acquiesced in all the opinions that had been expressed, and remarking especially upon the occurrences connected with the state trials of last year, proceeded, in reference to the subjects of difference which had been adjusted between this country and France, to inculcate the necessity, in every instance, of entering at the earliest period upon a full and explicit explanation. He expressed dislike of the new innovations called protectorates, and protested against the continuance of the income tax.

LORD ABERDEEN, in reply to the observations of the noble Marquis on the subject of mutual explanations, declared that the satisfactory adjustment of the questions respecting Tahiti had in this very manner been accomplished. The question of protectorates had not been in any degree involved. A subordinate officer, without instructions and without authority, had exceeded his duty; a representation of the circumstances, founded upon justice and urged with moderation, was made to the French government; and thus a settlement was arrived at, of which neither party had any reason, or felt any disposition to complain. He had asked nothing which he should not himself, in a similar case, have conceded, and upon this principle the negotiation had throughout proceeded.

LORD CAMPBELL then introduced the subject of law reform, and drew from the Lord Chancellor an explanation of the course he meant to adopt in the present session; and after a few words from Lord Brougham, the address was unanimously voted, and their lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House of Commons, after receiving some notices of motions for future days, commenced the business of the session, at half-past four o'clock, by listening to the speech from the throne, which was read as usual by the Speaker. The address upon the speech was moved by

MR CHARTERIS, and seconded by MR BARING, both of whose speeches were mere paraphrases of the royal speech.

LORD J. RUSSELL could readily concur in the terms of the address proposed on this occasion; but there were topics in the speech of her Majesty, and in the address in reply to it, which called for remark. He rejoiced in the assurances of peace, but thought it singular that at the same time ministers were preparing for war. He congratulated the House that our amicable relations with France were not broken; but said that he could not participate in those phrases of satisfaction which ministers used in their own praise at the conclusion of the last session. They then thought it right to advise her Majesty to praise the wisdom and moderation with which they had conducted the negotiations with France. He saw no cause for admiring either their wisdom or their moderation. What was the case?

Pritchard had been put under arrest, and had been committed to solitary confinement by the French commandant at Tahiti, on suspicion of encouraging insurrection among the natives; and it was communicated to him that, if insurrection took place, he should be held responsible for all the bloodshed which might ensue. Another French commandant arrived, who thought that there was no ground for such severity, but who also thought that it was unsafe that Pritchard should remain at Tahiti, and therefore desired him to leave the island. It was impossible not to admit that, if Captain Bruat

thought the conduct of Pritchard to be a cause of danger, he had a right to remove him; but to place him in solitary confinement, and to say that he should be responsible with his life for any insurrection, was a gross outrage, and demanded reparation. He was of opinion that if there had been that cordial understanding between the two governments of which their partisans boasted so loudly, a satisfactory arrangement might have been made without the delay of two months, and without any danger of war.

The cloud which menaced the duration of peace had, however, blown away, and he now trusted that ministers on both sides of the channel would feel that it was for the interest of their respective nations and for the peace of the world, that they should remain united, and that they should not suffer their subordinate officers at a distance of three or four thousand leagues to disturb their common tranquillity. He could not approve of the policy of government in regard to Spain, nor of the revival of the commission for the revision of the treaties on the slave trade. He referred to the paragraph in the address relating to the abatement of agitation in Ireland, and said that, nevertheless, the accounts which he had received from that country referred to many symptoms which were highly menacing. No man said that there was fear of insurrection or increase of agitation; but no man could say that there was that love and affection for the imperial legislature which ought to exist in the inhabitants of a free country. He attributed that want of love and affection to the very injudicious proceedings which had been taken against several leading persons in that country. He then referred at great length to the O'Connell trial. On the question of academical education in Ireland, he did not know whether it was a wise one or not. He quoted the Charitable Bequests bill as a proof of that position, and imputed the unpopularity of its reception in Ireland to the want of confidence in the sincerity of the party which proffered it, felt by the population of that country. After a reference to the revival of trade—

He implored the House to endeavour to ward off the mischief which other deficient harvests might bring upon us, by giving a freer inlet to the productions of other countries. He was convinced that protection was not the support, but the bane of agriculture. That the present duties on foreign corn should be diminished, he had no doubt, neither had the government. He, therefore, insisted that they ought to reduce them—he would not now say to what amount—whilst we were, as now, in a state of calm, and not hastily, under popular uproar, when it would be said that we could not refuse what we appeared to grant.

Mr MILES wished to know why Lord John had proposed a fixed duty, if he was so convinced that protection was the bane of agriculture? Had his lordship found it convenient to make a compact with the Corn-law League?

Mr GLADSTONE entered into an explanation of the reasons which had induced him to retire from the government, of which he had been a member:—

He had not resigned on account of any matter connected with that department of the government with which his services had long been connected. He had not resigned on account of any difference of opinion on the intentions, as far as he knew of them, of his late colleagues towards the church either of England or of Ireland. He had stated to the world formerly, not in haste, but with great deliberation, the relations which a Christian state ought to have with respect to religion. He had a strong impression that those who had once expressed strong opinions on subjects involving such important principles should not be parties to propose material departures from them. The spirit of their measure with respect to the endowment of the college of Maynooth, differed much from the spirit of that which he had deliberately recommended. His uniform conviction was, that though he was not to fetter his judgment by reference to abstract theory, yet that it was due to the public to place himself in a position to form an honest and an unsuspected judgment. He had, therefore, taken a course which had caused him much pain, and which had separated him from men with whom he had acted in public life, and of whom he was bound to say he continued to regard them with unaltered sentiments of public regard and private attachment.

The discussion of an increased grant to Maynooth was connected with some excitable topics in this country: but he was not prepared to take part in any religious warfare against Sir R. Peel's measure.

Sir R. PEEL then addressed the House, but his speech contained no fresh announcements. The resignation of Mr Gladstone had been delayed at his (Sir R. Peel's) request, and was entirely unconnected with any differences on commercial topics. He made only a general reference to his Irish measures—

He was now prepared at an early period of the session to propose an increase of facilities for academical education in Ireland, open to all classes of her Majesty's subjects. Among other institutions which would be benefited by that increased vote, the college of Maynooth would be one. The government intended to propose a liberal increase in the grant to that college, unaccompanied by any restrictions or regulations as to religious doctrines which would diminish its grace and favour.

After some fencing with Lord John Russell, whose speech he characterised as "a bitter party speech," he proceeded to justify the proceedings of the government in the late negotiations with France, on the subject of the treatment of Mr Pritchard. He rejoiced in the good understanding which now existed between the two countries, as there must, from their proximity to each other, be a good understanding, or something differing little from downright hostility between them. He thought it better to refrain from any discussion on the right of search until the papers connected with that subject were on the table of the House. The commissioners appointed to inquire into the nature of that substitute were on the part of France the Duke de Broglie, the minister who had signed the treaty giving us

the right of search, and on the part of England, Dr Lushington. With regard to the financial arrangements of the year, he would only remind the House that an hon. friend of his had given notice that it was his (Sir R. Peel's) intention to bring them forward before the usual time. He should place at an early period the general outlines of his plan before the House, as he thought that when alterations were to be made in our financial policy an early declaration of them was best.

Sir C. NAPIER complained of the conduct of the French officers at Tahiti, not only towards Mr Pritchard, but also towards the commander of the Cormorant.

Mr PLUMPTRE did not consider the explanation of Mr Gladstone to be very intelligible. He admitted that Sir R. Peel had promised to make further concessions to the Roman Catholics. His announcement that he was now prepared to carry that promise into execution would create a considerable sensation out of doors.

Mr WYSE and Mr BELLEW both commended the intention of government in respect to education in Ireland.

Mr VILLIERS spoke on the subject of free trade and protection. He rejoiced in the declaration of Lord John Russell, that protection was the bane, and not the support, of agriculture, and called upon the House to watch with the closest attention the new financial measures of government.

Mr SHEIL alluded, in a complimentary strain, to the resignation of Mr Gladstone. He gave Sir R. Peel high praise for making the grant to Maynooth, and for the manner in which he made it. He also wished to know whether the University of Dublin was to be thrown open. After some further unimportant remarks, he asked Sir J. Graham if he was still prepared to bring in his Irish Registration bill, and to repeat his pledge.

Sir J. GRAHAM had no hesitation in stating, that it was the determination of the government to propose an Irish Registration bill this session. They had also no objection to alter some of the details of the Bequests' act.

Lord PALMERSTON entered at great length upon the Tahiti question, and strongly censured the conduct of government throughout, and condemned the proposed negotiations on the subject of the right of search.

Sir R. INGLIS warned Sir R. Peel that he must not expect to pacify Ireland by the measure which he had just propounded, or by any measure of a similar character.

Lord SANDON was not prepared to join with the last speaker in his objection to the increased grant to the college of Maynooth.

Lord HOWICK confined his observations to the question of the slave trade, and condemned the right of search.

The address was then put from the chair, and carried unanimously. The house adjourned.

Various notices of motion were given in the early part of the day. By Mr Ewart, on the indirect taxation and capital punishments; by Mr Wallace, on railway management; by Dr Bowring, on the state of public accounts; by Lord Ashley, on factory labour; and by Mr Duncombe, on Post office espionage. The latter question is to be brought on this day fortnight. The financial statement will be made by Sir R. Peel on the 14th inst. New writs were issued for North Wiltshire, Buckingham, Stamford, and Tipperary. With the exception of the last, these vacancies occur in consequence of the late ministerial changes.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

NORTHAMPTON.

On Thursday evening last, a public meeting, in connexion with the British Anti-state-church Association, was held at College Street meeting house, Northampton. The weather was very unfavourable; yet, notwithstanding, the audience was large and respectable. Mr Robinson, baptist minister, of Kettering, occupied the chair; Messrs E. T. Prust, J. Bennett, and several other ministers, were present on the platform. Mr Robinson opened the business with a lucid address, explanatory and commendatory of the objects of the above Association, and of the means by which it proposes to accomplish the same.

Mr G. ASHMEAD, baptist minister, of Kingsthorpe, in a speech of great power and eloquence, dwelt on the evils of church and state connexions, as exemplified in the working and effects on society of the English establishment, which he designated as the church of the aristocracy, and represented the Puseyite section of it particularly, as performing the duties of head-nurse and waiting-maid to the church of Rome.

Dr F. A. Cox (who, with Mr E. Miall, formed a deputation from London), in a way which manifested great firmness, suavity, and good sense, showed that the Anti-state-church movement was loudly called for by the signs of the times; and dwelt principally on the history, manifestations, requirements, and tendencies of our race to the worship of human authority—the great idolatry—in matters of religion, from an early age to the present day. The learned Dr distinctly proved, that the present efforts were not put forth against any professing body of religionists, but against the essentially and necessarily evil principle involved in the very existence of state religions.

Mr J. T. BROWN, the minister of the place, regretted the opposition and apathy shown towards the Anti-state-church Association, and thought it particularly accounted for, from the wasting of great efforts to little purpose, in years gone by, on dissenters'

grievances. This was a deeply religious movement. The aims of the society were so definite, its machinery so beautifully adapted to its ends, and the spirit in which it was applied so Christian, that he was determined to give to the Association this warm sympathy and strenuous support.

Mr E. MIALL, in a calm, clear, and effective address, set forth the history, design, and claims of the Association; and fairly put, and decisively defeated, many objections which had been made to it. We have no doubt that many present, who have hitherto indulged suspicions as to the utility of the Association, were thoroughly convinced of its excellence; while every previous friend to it was confirmed in his determination to proceed with the good work. Resolutions, accordant with those which have so frequently appeared in the public prints, were unanimously carried; as were also votes of thanks to the deputation and chairman.

At the conclusion of the meeting, several subscriptions were handed in. It is intended to procure a registrar for each congregation, for the enrolment of members, &c.

Two new churches and several school rooms have, within a few years, been reared by the episcopalians in this town; and we are persuaded that, if dissenters clearly understood and earnestly loved, distinctly avowed and devoutly sought to spread, the one principle of "liberty of judgment and action in things pertaining to Christ's kingdom," many pious episcopalians would sympathise with them. It is not very long since one of our resident clergymen was called to enter on the minutes of the proceedings of an Easter meeting a resolution in favour of the voluntary principle, which was proposed by a dissenter, seconded by a churchman, and carried unanimously by a large company of parishioners. In the same parish the churchwardens have been in office several years, distinctly but cheerfully pledged not to ask for a church rate.—*From a Correspondent.*

On Friday evening Mr E. Miall delivered a lecture at Islington Green chapel, to a numerous and respectable auditory. Dr T. Price took the chair, and introduced the lecturer to the meeting in a brief address. At the close of the lecture several new members were enrolled.

On Friday afternoon, at half-past two o'clock, her Majesty will proceed to Brighton, by the railway, from the New Cross station.

THE CORN LAWS AND GOVERNMENT.—In referring to the intentions of government, and the meeting of the Agricultural Protection Society, the *Chronicle* of this morning says:—

The Duke told his hearers if such a meeting had taken place a few years ago, it would have prevented the measure of 1842. "But," said he, "you may now rest assured that no further attempt will be made to plunder the interest of agriculture." It is clear enough now that there is no "hitch" about the arrangements respecting Sir Thomas Fremantle. The Buckingham election is a settled thing. But Sir Robert Peel must be in great straits, to buy a single seat at so dear a price.

Last night's *Gazette* contains the decision of the Board of Trade in favour of the Birmingham and Gloucester—deviation line; London, Worcester, Rugby and Oxford railway, with an extension from Worcester to Dudley (narrow gauge); and against the Birmingham and Gloucester—Wolverhampton line; Oxford and Rugby (wide gauge); Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton (wide gauge).

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.—In the presence of most of the authorities of the Portsmouth dockyard, her Majesty's speech was yesterday received at Gosport by means of the electric telegraph. The speech contained about 3,600 letters, and was printed off as it arrived, and occupied about two hours in the transmission, being at the rate of about 300 letters per minute. The distance is eighty-eight miles.

THE LATE RAILWAY CATASTROPHE AT MANCHESTER.

—The jury have returned the following verdict:—"That from the evidence brought before us we have reason to suppose that the ordinary valve had been closed to facilitate the pressure of the steam, and that from some unknown cause the lockup safety valve was impeded in its working. That it is the opinion of the jury that there was a flaw in the copper plate in the upper part of the fire-box, arising from the contraction and expansion of the metal in its ordinary working, which led, under accumulated pressure, to the catastrophe, by which William Stones, George Mills, and William Alcock met their death. From these circumstances, the jury lay a deadend on the engine of £500."

At the weekly meeting of the Repeal Association on Monday, the resolutions calling upon the repeal M.P.'s to absent themselves from the House, were unanimously carried, after a long speech from Mr O'Connell. The rent was £387 3s. 7d.

TAHITI.—The following facts relative to Tahiti have been obtained from Mr How, one of the recently arrived missionaries:—

The whole population of Tahiti, and the other islands claimed by the French, were in arms against them, and they were masters of nothing beyond what they occupied in Tahiti itself. They could not move a mile from Papeiti without being attacked by the natives, who were determined to resist to the last. The total French force consisted of about 1,000 men, and of the natives there were, either in Tahiti or the adjoining islands, from 4,000 to 5,000 determined men in arms, resolved to resist them to the last. Already from 200 to 250 of the French had fallen in attacking the strong position taken by the natives, of whom about 100 had also lost their lives. Queen Pomare had refused to have anything to do with the French. She had joined her subjects in one of the adjoining islands, and was determined either to live or die a Queen.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Peas	Flour.
English ..	1890	3380	3500			
Scotch....						
Irish	2950			
Foreign ..		1130	320			

Prices for wheat, barley, and oats are declining, and the market is dull.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Unitas" does not suit us.

We sympathise with our Crediton correspondent, but cannot interfere.

"A Leaguer and a Suffragist." The letter is too long for our columns.

Terms for advertising in the *Nonconformist*.
For 7 lines....5s. 0d. | For 10 lines....6s. 0d.
For every additional line..... 4d.

* Advertisements from the country must be accompanied by a post-office order, or reference for payment in London.

The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5, 1845.

SUMMARY.

HER MAJESTY opened parliament yesterday, in person. The following is the speech which she delivered from the throne—a few comments upon which will be found in another column:—

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

"I rejoice that I am enabled, on again meeting you in parliament, to congratulate you on the improved condition of the country.

"Increased activity pervades almost every branch of manufacture. Trade and commerce have been extended at home and abroad, and among all classes of my people there is generally prevalent a spirit of loyalty and cheerful obedience to the law.

"I continue to receive from all foreign powers and states assurances of their friendly disposition.

"I have had much satisfaction in receiving at my court the Sovereigns who in the course of the last year visited this country.

"The journey of the Emperor of Russia, undertaken at a great sacrifice of private convenience, was a proof of the friendship of his Imperial Majesty most acceptable to my feelings.

"The opportunity of personal intercourse thus afforded to me may, I hope, be the means of still further improving those amicable relations which have long existed between Great Britain and Russia.

"The visit of the King of the French was rendered especially welcome to me, inasmuch as it had been needed by discussions which might have impaired the good understanding happily established between the two countries.

"I regard the maintenance of this good understanding as essential to the best interests of both; and I rejoice to witness that the sentiments so cordially expressed by all classes of my subjects on the occasion of his Majesty's visit were entirely in unison with my own.

"GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

"The estimates for the ensuing year have been prepared, and will forthwith be laid before you.

"The progress of steam navigation, and the demands for protection to the extended commerce of the country, will occasion an increase in the estimates connected with the naval service.

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

"I have observed with sincere satisfaction that the improvement which is manifest in other parts of the country has extended to Ireland.

"The political agitation and excitement, which I have had heretofore occasion to lament, appear to have gradually abated, and, as a natural result, private capital has been more freely applied to useful public enterprises, undertaken through the friendly co-operation of individuals interested in the welfare of Ireland.

"I have carried into effect, in the spirit in which it was conceived, the act for the more effectual application of charitable donations and bequests.

"I recommend to your favourable consideration the policy of improving and extending the opportunities for academical education in Ireland.

"The report of the commission appointed to inquire into the law and practice, in respect to the occupation of land, is nearly prepared, and shall be communicated to you immediately after its presentation.

"The state of the law in regard to the privileges of the Bank of Ireland, and to other banking establishments in that country, and in Scotland, will, no doubt, occupy your attention.

"The health of the inhabitants of large towns and populous districts in this part of the United Kingdom, has been the subject of recent inquiry before a commission, the report of which shall be immediately laid before you.

"It will be highly gratifying to me if the information and suggestions contained in that report shall enable you to devise the means of promoting the health and comfort of the poorer classes of my subjects.

"I congratulate you on the success of the measures which, three years since, were adopted by parliament for the purpose of supplying the deficiency in the public revenue, and arresting the accumulation of debt in the time of peace.

"The act which was passed at that time for imposing a tax upon income will shortly expire.

"It will be for you in your wisdom to determine whether it may not be expedient to continue its operation for a further period, and thus to obtain the means of adequately providing for the public service, and at the same time of making a reduction in other taxation.

"Whatever may be the result of your deliberations in this respect, I feel assured that it will be your determination to maintain an amount of revenue amply sufficient to meet the necessary expenditure of the country, and firmly to uphold that public credit which is indispensable to the national welfare.

"The prospect of continued peace, and the general state of domestic prosperity and tranquillity, afford a favourable opportunity for the consideration of the important matters to which I have directed your attention; and I commit them to your deliberation with the earnest prayer that you may be enabled, under the superintending care and protection of divine Providence, to strengthen the feelings of mutual confidence and goodwill between different classes of my subjects, and to improve the condition of my people."

The opening of parliament was immediately preceded by some changes in the ministry. Mr Gladstone, who may be regarded as representing the

intellect of the cabinet, has, unexpectedly, resigned office, on grounds partly commercial and partly theological. Lord Dalhousie has been nominated to fill his place as president of the Board of Trade; and the vice-presidency, left vacant by his promotion, is to be occupied by Sir George Clerk. Mr Cardwell, of whom the *Post* remarks that he can make a good speech if he is only allowed three hours to write it and thirteen to commit it to memory, takes Sir George's place as secretary to the treasury in the finance department. Sir T. Fremantle, who succeeded Sir H. Hardinge as secretary of War, if his re-election for Buckingham can be secured, is to go to Ireland in the place of Lord Eliot. Mr Sidney Herbert is to step into Sir T. Fremantle's shoes, and to have a seat in the cabinet; and the Earl of Lincoln, retaining his present office at the Board of Woods and Forests, is likewise to be made free of that inner chamber. Mr Corry is to take the secretaryship to the admiralty; and Lord Jocelyn is destined for some official situation—whether in virtue of his eminent abilities or of his aristocratic connexions, it is impossible to say.

The Bishop of Exeter and his diocese have now become a standing title for about a column and a half of curious ecclesiastical information in the *Times* newspaper. It would appear that the vagaries of Puseyite clergymen have been more common and more startling within the episcopal jurisdiction of Dr Phillpotts, than in any other part of the kingdom. The result has been uniformly the same in every instance. Empty churches, discontented flocks, meetings of parishioners, strings of resolutions, correspondence between the clergy and their bishop, and, finally, some compromise reflecting credit upon no party, comprise the leading features of these parochial annals. Some people are sanguine in expecting a large secession from the establishment. We cannot sympathise with them in their anticipations. It is true that most of the clergy who adopt the offensive novelties are young, hot-headed, and arrogant—puffed up with silly notions of their official authority, and indisposed to listen to the advice of their friends, or to the remonstrance of their parishioners. But it is not less true that the authorities of the church are crafty politicians, whatever may be their pretensions as divines. They will not allow matters to be pushed so far as to endanger a serious separation. They will probably take time—will work in the dark—will compass their designs by plausible and insidious means—and will endeavour gradually to wear down the opposition of the laity, rather than openly encounter it whilst it is in full force. It may happen, however, that the very grounds of dispute will ere long be shifted, and that the force of conscience will be brought into play against both church and state, to a much greater extent than our authorities anticipate.

There have been some few meetings held in the provinces for the abolition of the game laws. The agitation will unquestionably do good in diffusing sound opinions on this subject, but the game laws constitute an integral part of the aristocratic system, and with it they will probably stand or fall. We are grieved to observe the *Times* veer round upon this question—eat its own words—put contempt upon its own arguments—falsify most of its own representations—and unblushingly proclaim its own disgrace. "Game is now property in the strict sense of that term—must be—always has been—cannot be otherwise. The laws respecting game are good laws—nobody complains of them. They are susceptible of but little improvement, only they must be administered with somewhat more leniency." In sober truth, it makes us tremble for the destinies of our country, when we observe how deeply tainted is our public press with corruption and servility. The noblest engine for working out a nation's freedom is thus basely sold into the hands of its direst foes, and the fourth estate of the realm is even more dishonest, and is far more to be dreaded, than all the other three combined!

Naturally enough, the Agricultural Protection Society, just on the eve of the opening of parliament, held its central meeting in London. The speeches of the noblemen and gentlemen present showed far more vigour of will than of understanding. They are a curious illustration of the pertinacity with which the landed gentry will stick to any fallacy which serves their purpose. It may have been exploded a thousand times, and all men of sense may have given it up as utterly untenable, but it finds its way with the same air of self-complacency into after-dinner speeches, and regularly elicits most tremendous cheers. The characteristic feature of this meeting, however, was, that the agricultural interests of the country could bear no further change, and those identified with them would endure no further attempts at it. The menace was doubtless intended for Sir Robert Peel, and will have its effect upon his commercial policy. Profess what he will, he cannot yet do without the Duke of Buckingham, unless, indeed, he should come to an avowed understanding with the whigs; and for this, at present, we hold him to be unprepared.

Ireland furnishes us with comparatively little

news this week; but such as it is, it will be worm-wood to the Premier. We do not now allude to the determination of the repeal M.P.'s to absent themselves from their parliamentary duties—this, we imagine, will give him but very little annoyance. But for him, and for the success of that new policy which he is about to introduce, the movement of the protestant clergy in Ireland, in opposition to the existing system of national education, will be an untoward event. That same zeal which now burns against the small favour displayed towards the Roman catholic population by the Board of Education, and the grants placed at its disposal, will flame out in fury against the ministerial proposition, to devote a considerable sum from the national funds to the establishment of Roman catholic theological seminaries. Ireland will yet prove to be Sir Robert Peel's great difficulty.

We have nothing to say upon the ministerial crisis in France, which yet continues. Amongst our selections from the press will be found an article from the *Examiner*, which throws some light upon the subject. But the contest now raging in that country is one involving no great political principles, and one, consequently, in which we can take no very profound interest.

PEERING AHEAD.

A DESIRE to penetrate as far as possible into the future may be set down as one of the instincts of man. Scarcely anything can abate it—nothing can destroy it. Experience may prove to us, in ten thousand different ways, how futile are all our attempts to deduce from the things which are, those which are to come—and the failure of our predictions may be so uniform as to teach our reason in all cases to expect it. But no matter. To limit our survey to the present is to stifle some of the deepest yearnings of the soul. We live chiefly upon our anticipations. Thought is perpetually bending its flight towards the broad expanse of the future, as if in search of its final home. That which is actually past, or passing, is too narrow a chamber in which for an ever-active intelligence to dwell contented—and by far the greater portion of its time is spent in looking out of the windows of conjecture, and musing upon the dim and distant outlines of what shall be.

If, then, we essay to forecast some of the likelihoods of the parliamentary session just commenced, our attempt must be considered in the light of an indulgence granted to a natural propensity, rather than of any overweening confidence in our own political sagacity. We are like men at a theatre before the curtain rises—is it wonderful that we should occupy the few spare moments left us in speculating upon what will turn out to be the character of the piece?

The assembling of parliament, perhaps, never yet excited less expectation—and yet we cannot divest ourselves of the vague and shadowy feeling which creeps over us, that its proceedings will usher in some great and momentous change. We look for nothing, it is true, from the conflicts of party. Within the walls of St Stephen's there will probably be an ominous agreement. If there be any struggle, it will be between the legislature and the nation. The precise object of it—the shape it may assume—the extent to which it may go—the great principles it may in its progress heave up to the surface—no present appearances portend. But it seems clear to us, that the reign of tame quiescence is drawing rapidly to its close, and that the necessities of the aristocracy are driving them upon a system of policy which will array against them the strongest prejudices and the most deeply cherished feelings of the nation.

The experiment is, at all times, a doubtful and a dangerous one, to meddle with the religious convictions of a large mass of the people. The labours of the present session bid fair to turn upon points which Englishmen have been wont to treat as points of conscience. The earlier history of our country—the more modern efforts of party—the growth, within the pale of the establishment, of papal tendencies—the recent freaks of the Bishop of Exeter, the opposition they created, and his ignominious defeat—have served, more or less, to diffuse, throughout the middle class of our population, a settled hatred of Roman catholicism as a spiritual system, and a watchful jealousy of every symptom which would seem to indicate a leaning towards it. If our rulers have interpreted the readiness of our people to release all denominations of religionists from civil disabilities as identical with a disposition to extend to them state recognition and support, they are, as we believe, most egregiously mistaken. As yet they may be little enlightened on what we regard as the question of questions—but we much doubt whether a legislative attempt to connect Romanism with the state will not, by treading upon the corns of prejudice, wake up the middle class from their deep slumbers. At all events, the novel course of policy which ministers are prepared to introduce justifies a painful anxiety as to the effect likely to be produced upon the popular mind. It is a leap in the dark. It is taking the bull by the horns.

It will require something more than dexterous management. A master mind might make the experiment successfully—but it remains to be seen whether the feat can be accomplished by a parliamentary trickster.

Subjects which gather about them, irrespectively altogether of party influences, the strong feelings of the majority, can only be dealt with to any useful purpose by bodies enjoying pretty largely the confidence of the nation. Were the legislature believed to be composed, for the most part, of earnest men—had their past history given any pledge of present seriousness, disinterestedness, or integrity—in short, were parliament looked upon as the reality which it professes to be, the mere weight of their authority might overbear even a conscientious repugnance to their measures. But the contrary to all this is a matter of notoriety. The legislature for some time back has been tolerated rather than respected. Nobody believes in its sincerity—nobody confides in its ability. Men are willing to let it alone, so long as it confines itself to party squabbles or to ordinary passing affairs. But the case is altered when levity and vanity presume to handle great questions of religious polity, and to trifle with spiritual convictions. Englishmen can least endure to be chafed on subjects connected with their theological faith; and, of all offenders in this matter, the House of Commons is most likely to provoke their resentment. Hamlet may give scope to the buffoonery of Polonius when it touches no important interest of his own; but, when the prating coxcomb is suspected "for his better," he is stabbed behind the arras. Parliament, mistaken for a college of cardinals, may perhaps fare as unexpectedly.

Should Sir Robert Peel's plans with respect to the Roman catholic church of Ireland rouse any general and determined opposition out of doors—for by our legislators they will probably be greeted with an all but unanimous shout of approval—then great changes are not far distant. The aristocracy are playing their last card of honours—they must win the trick or lose the game. A cabinet beaten on a question occupying the most prominent place among the recommendations of the Queen's speech, could not thereafter conduct the government of the empire. But who, in that case, is to succeed them? and what political principles are to become ascendant? Change of party would obviously bring no relief. The next change, as every one can foresee, must needs be a change of system. It has at length come to this—that any single political or ecclesiastical question of serious moment necessarily involves all other questions. The real stake to be fought for, whatever the ostensible object of dispute, is—for whose advantage is government to be carried on, that of a privileged class or that of the empire at large? People are getting to understand this; and, if once their ordinary state of inaction be broken up, they will make the battle turn upon great principles.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

ROYAL speeches seldom offer much scope for criticism. They usually contain a very dry announcement of facts with which every one is acquainted, and a very unintelligible indication of measures which the people may expect from government. The present Queen's speech bears a strong family likeness to all its predecessors. It contains many paragraphs, the chief virtue of which is, that they are short. Of these, several are devoted to foreign affairs—one or two to congratulations—one to the praise of senatorial wisdom and patriotism—and the closing one to a formal recognition of Divine Providence. This latter is a piece of national piety, which seems to be as essential, and yet as destitute of all sincerity, as is the opening address, "My Lords and Gentlemen." Political churchmen seem to imagine that the Deity would be ill pleased if all mention of him were left out of the royal speech; and so the custom is kept up from session to session, and the same unvarying terms are employed, under a notion that this is one way in which a Christian country is bound to honour God.

The speech refers to the gratifying revival of our trade and commerce, and, as the natural counterpart, hints at a considerable increase of the naval estimates. We gather from various sources, that the people are to be called upon to furnish several millions of money for the construction of harbours of defence and refuge. It is quite clear that this is a job for replenishing aristocratic pockets. Are we not at peace? Have we not been at peace these thirty years? Is there any probable danger of foreign invasion? And yet government takes it into its head that our maritime defences are not sufficiently secure, and contemplates a large outlay of capital to put them into a state of efficiency. We suppose these increased naval estimates will absorb no small portion of our surplus revenue. The speech, it is true, talks of a reduction of taxation; but, as the income tax is to be retained, and as the wants of our rulers always increase with their means, we have but little hope that much will be done in this direction.

The main paragraph of the speech is that which

we have inserted in italics. It looks modest in its present form, but it covers a proposition of a great and fundamental change. We have expressed ourselves so fully on this subject in other parts of our paper that we shall not need to comment upon it in this place. We see in that single sentence the germ of vast changes. If it ripen, and produce its natural fruit, Great Britain will, ere long, be over-ridden by priestism. If public feeling nips it in the bud, the present system of government is verging upon the termination of its career.

SELECTIONS FROM THE PRESS.

FRENCH POLITICAL COMEDY.

(From the *Examiner*.)

The struggle, or series of struggles, which have just taken place inside and outside the French Chamber of deputies has apparently been a trial of strength between Count Molé and M. Guizot; the former attacking the door of the King's Cabinet, the latter defending it. And the bulletins of the battle state that M. Guizot has come off triumphant, and that his very enemies have rallied to him. There is, of course, truth in these appearances, and this play of parties. But the real struggle was not what it appeared, nor did it lie between the personages apparently most prominent.

The real fight was between the King and M. Thiers. Louis Philippe has now for four years possessed a minister who has courageously, as the phrase is, "covered his responsibility;" that is, borne the odium and unpopularity which under former ministers fell too directly and personally on the King. M. Guizot has done this, has preserved peace, yet has kept up war expenditure. He has extended French influence everywhere, in Spain, in Africa, the Levant, the Pacific (M. Guizot boasted of this in his speech), without estranging England or any other power. He has silenced not only sedition in the streets or the clubs, but even the liberal opposition in parliament upon domestic questions. All these achievements endear M. Guizot to the King. But M. Guizot has also weaknesses and defects. He has not that command of the Chamber which can force from it settlements for the Princes. And, moreover, M. Guizot is unpopular. The King would care little for this, if the present Chamber were to last for ever, or if it could be elected by any close-borough system, independent of popular opinion. But this is not so. And the outcry, however false, of the liberal press against M. Guizot for his obsequiousness to England has been so effectual that if a dissolution took place, and a general election came on under the auspices of M. Guizot, the result would be a majority, not only against him, but against court and conservatives.

The King's first and prime thought at present is, how to get through the next elections. They should be managed and presided over by a conservative minister, and a courtier, but not M. Guizot, Count Molé was the man. And he was accordingly encouraged to come forward in rivalry to M. Guizot. Count Molé has no followers of his own worth naming. But Louis Philippe provided him with a party out of his own household, with Count Montalivet, and others, who affected to be piqued with M. Guizot. The liberals were sounded as to their supporting such a combined opposition. They agreed they would do anything to get Guizot out, as they think that then they would have a cheaper bargain of Molé. Thus supported, Count Molé declared himself, for the first time openly, the antagonist of M. Guizot. The battle was fought, and M. Guizot run so hard as to save himself by a majority of eight.

The undecided victory, however, the kind of drawn battle, left Louis Philippe as much perplexed as ever. Moreover, he could not but feel, that in the debate it was the outright opposition which was triumphing in the persons and speeches of Thiers and Billault, and not by the exertions or weight of any of Count Molé's friends, who remained timid, ineffective, or null. The King, therefore, who certainly permitted Molé to make the trial, has since rallied to Guizot, restored to him the fulness of royal favour, which had been previously withheld, whilst those who had been given as royal mercenaries to Molé, have been ordered back to their old ministerial quarters. Thus Count Montalivet shakes Guizot by the hand again, and M. de Salvandy, one of Molé's own seconds, take office in the existing cabinet.

Such is the comedy of the last fortnight. Some call it M. Guizot's triumph, but it is a triumph over the King; for, in reality, M. Thiers has gained ground. He has pushed Guizot and the King to a division of 213 against 205. He has disgusted Molé with the court, discredited Guizot not only with the country, but with the large class of followers who only love the wise and the strong, and he has put himself in a far better position, with respect to the next elections, than he was in before. What the King will do with respect to these, remains, of course, uncertain. For the moment, he re-espouses M. Guizot. But he is in a position in which he cannot rest, and in a very few weeks we shall see the restless nature of the French King show itself in some unexpected shape. Since Molé will not do, he will try Passy and Dufaure—anything, in fine, but trust the management of the elections either to Guizot or to Thiers. He would willingly exclude both; and yet he dreads to see both out of power at the same time, and consequently in a situation to coalesce against him.

The whole affair is very like a game of chess—a Staunton and St Amand engagement—most amusing to those who can watch it, and interesting, too, when we think that the peace of Europe may depend on the displacement of a pawn.

IMPORTANT CHANGES IN THE MINISTRY.

(From the *Times*.)

Although several important changes in the present administration have, for some time past, been much discussed, and confidently anticipated, the appointments which are at this time understood to be determined on, and still more, the secession from the government of one of its most active and intelligent members, are, for the most part, unexpected by the public. Of these occurrences, the most unforeseen and significant is, the resignation and retirement of the president of the Board of Trade. Mr Gladstone's name has been connected, from the moment of his first appearance in the world, with opinions of a very decided character on several important questions which have no reference whatever to his particular duties as the commercial minister of the British empire. But these speculative opinions are re-

ported to have divided the hon. gentleman from his colleagues on some of the most important matters likely to be brought before parliament; and we hope we may infer that those measures will prove to be of such moment to the welfare of the United Kingdom, and especially to the tranquillity of the most agitated portion of it, that they will afford a sufficient compensation for the loss of so active a public servant as Mr Gladstone.

The vacancy thus arising at the head of the Board of Trade will be filled by Lord Dalhousie, now the vice-president of that department, but without a seat in the cabinet. Mr Cardwell, the member for Clithero, is named as the successor of Lord Dalhousie in the vice-presidency of the Board of Trade—an office which is usually accompanied with a seat in the privy council.

The vacancy occasioned by the resignation of the secretaryship of Ireland by the present Lord St Germans, upon the death of his father, and his consequent accession to the peerage, will be filled up by Sir Thomas Fremantle, who succeeded Sir Henry Hardinge last spring as secretary at war. Mr Sydney Herbert takes the war-office, with a seat in the cabinet; and the Earl of Lincoln also enters the cabinet, retaining his present office at the Board of Woods and Forests. The retirement of Sir John Barrow, and the promotion of Mr Sydney Herbert, leave both the secretaryships of the admiralty at the disposal of the government; and we trust they will be filled in such a manner as to meet all the claims of that most important department, and to deserve the confidence of the country. Mr Corry has been mentioned as Mr Sydney Herbert's successor.

[The *Times* subsequently amends its statement respecting the successor of Lord Dalhousie, as vice-president of the Board of Trade. Mr Cardwell will not be appointed to that post, but will take some office. The *Morning Chronicle* hears that "there is a hitch" in the proposed ministerial arrangements: "negotiations with the Duke of Buckingham to secure Sir Thomas Fremantle's re-election for Buckingham, 'the family borough,' have been going on for two or three days; but 'without a distinct pledge from Sir Robert Peel that he is determined not to carry his commercial reforms any further, it will be impossible for the Duke of Buckingham again to place the family borough at the service of the ministry.' If so, Sir Thomas must not go to Ireland; and that will hinder other changes. Be this as it may, a more obvious question puzzles people, and is much discussed: What will Sir Robert Peel do for House of Commons speakers? In debate, his coadjutors were Lord Stanley, Mr Gladstone, and Sir James Graham: now Lord Stanley has been translated, and Mr Gladstone has absconded—leaving the Premier with only the able and powerful, but cumbrous and unpopular Sir James, to help him in their week-long debates! To this the *Times* of yesterday adds the following information:—"We understand that Sir George Clerk is to be the vice-president of the Board of Trade, and that Mr Cardwell will succeed Sir George Clerk as secretary to the treasury in the finance department. We believe also that Lord Jocelyn will be appointed to office—we presume, to the lordship of the admiralty, vacant by the nomination of Mr Corry to be secretary to that board. Of the fact that Lord Jocelyn is destined for some official situation, we have no doubt.]

THE SPY SYSTEM AT THE POST OFFICE.—On Thursday last much surprise was prevalent at the various departments of the General Post-office, in consequence of an order from the Postmaster-general, in pursuance of a communication from the Home-office, for the abolition of the board where the practice existed of opening the letters of persons suspected of having treasonable intentions against this and foreign governments. This board (which was presided over by Mr Beade, of the foreign letter department, who had under him a few confidential clerks) was established by a patent during the Pitt administration. In the course of the last session of parliament it will be recollected that some motions were brought before the house by Mr Duncombe, the member for Finsbury, in consequence of the discovery that a letter written by Mr Mazzini had been opened. It is supposed that the government, not being desirous to have the subject again agitated, have resolved to abolish the office previous to the meeting of parliament.—*Observer*.

ARRIVAL OF THE MISSIONARIES FROM TAHITI.—The missionaries, with their wives, whose return from Tahiti we have prepared our readers to expect, are, probably, by this time in London. Letters were received by this morning's post, announcing their landing at Cork, and the departure of some of them for England. The party, as they reached Valparaiso, consisted of eighteen souls—namely, the Rev. W. Howe and his wife, the Rev. J. T. Jesson and his wife and family, the Rev. T. Joseph and his wife and family, the Rev. J. Moore and his wife and child. It is highly satisfactory to know that several efficient missionaries still remain at Tahiti, and that it is not improbable that the John Williams has, ere this, called at the island, and left them a reinforcement from England. While, therefore, in the return of Messrs Howe and Jesson and their companions, the directors of the London Missionary Society will be put in possession of the means of informing themselves and the public more exactly of the conduct of the French usurping authorities, and of the state of the island, it is matter for congratulation that this great advantage has not been obtained at the cost of an utter abandonment of the mission. At the time when the returned missionaries left, the island remained in a state of entire disorganisation, almost the whole native population being still in their natural places of defence in the mountains. Queen Pomare, with her family and attendants, is described as being in the fastnesses of Raiatea, firmly resolved to accept of no alternative between the full restoration of her rights, and the worst doom which French faith and French gallantry may prepare for her. Mr Jesson is the bearer of a despatch from her Tahitian Majesty to our own most gracious Queen.—*Patriot*.

ROYAL PATRONAGE OF THE ARTS.—A correspondent of the *Cheltenham Examiner* mentions a pleasing instance of the Queen's countenance and encouragement of genius. The Queen having heard that the album of Richard Doyle, a very clever young artist, "was full of the most exquisite fancies and conceits, commanded its appearance in the royal drawing room," some three or four months ago, where it has since remained. And it seems that her Majesty has taken so much interest in "Master" Doyle's future success, that she has "intimated her intention to send him for two years to Italy at her own expense." The young gentleman is the son of the well-known caricaturist "H. B.," and is known by his illustrations to *Punch* and other periodicals. Young Doyle is not more than sixteen or seventeen years of age.

NEW RAILWAYS.—Friday's *Gazette* contains another report from the Board of Trade on railways. Several Irish lines are first disposed of, the Board reporting in favour of the Cork and Bandon; Great Southern and Western—Cork Extension only; Waterford and Limerick; and against the Great South-west (Ireland) Direct; and recommending the postponement, until a future period, of the Dublin, Carlow, and Wexford; Dublin, Wexford, Waterford, and Carlow; Dublin and Wicklow; and Kilkenny Junction. With regard to the English lines, the report is in favour of the Churnet Valley railway scheme (from Macclesfield to Tamworth and Derby, with a branch to the Potteries), Barnsley Junction, Leeds and Bradford Extension to Skipton and Colne, Leeds and West Riding Junction, Manchester and Leeds—Heywood and Oldham Extensions, Manchester and Leeds—Burnley Branch; and against the Leeds, Dewsbury, and Manchester, Manchester, Bury, and Rossendale—Heywood Branch. West Yorkshire.

BILLET DOUX TO THE PREMIER.—The following is an extract of a letter to Sir R. Peel in the *Times*, by a writer of the "Coningsby" school, who signs C. :—
"Formal without dignity, cold without refinement, your manner towards your friends in the House of Commons is at once distant and ungracious. They enjoy neither generous confidence nor friendly intercourse. Without either consultation or explanation they find their wishes disregarded, their most cherished opinions overruled. In debates upon measures more unpalatable to them than to the opposition, they are frequently compelled to listen to the language of admonition and reproof, sometimes even to that of menace and command. It is clear that matters cannot remain long as they are. You must yourself feel upon what an edge you stand. Strong only because your enemies are weak, you will be abandoned on the very first favourable opportunity. If you have any true and familiar friend, he ought to urge you, upon grounds of common prudence, if upon none higher, to retire, with some degree of grace, while you may."

VISCOUNT MORPETH has given the munificent donation of £500 to the proposed training schools for the dioceses of York and Ripon, the object of which is to provide able instructors for the schools in the rural districts of those particular dioceses.

THE GAME LAWS.—Mr Bright has the following notice of motion on the order book of the House of Commons for the ensuing session:—"Select committee to inquire into the operation of the Game laws, especially with reference to the consumption of agricultural produce by game, and to the effect of these laws upon the interests of the tenant farmers, and the morality and well-being of the peasantry." Connected with the same subject, Mr Williams, the Inspector of Prisons, has the following remarks in his report, which has just been issued:—"While upon the general subject of prison discipline I may remark, that however severe in physical restraints, or powerful in moral influence, it signally fails in producing any salutary impressions upon offenders convicted of infraction of the laws enacted for the preservation of game. These men, while undergoing imprisonment, appear possessed of the idea that these laws are more harshly and inflexibly administered than in other cases of a more serious character, and that the punishments awarded are unequal, disproportionate, and unjust. In support of their views they instance the double convictions and emulative penalties and imprisonments under various statutes for one offence, and the act against night poaching under which offenders are adjudged to hard labour while detained for the want of sureties, contrasting the law in this respect with its different application to those committed for sureties in assaults and other cases where the penalty of hard labour does not attach. The testimony of the chaplains of prisons will be found to furnish abundant evidence that argument, admonition, entreaty, are all unavailing to induce in these offenders any admission of criminality, or a promise of relinquishing this pernicious pursuit. There can be no question that the tenacity of this feeling among poachers is in some degree to be traced to the support and encouragement it receives from the sympathy so notoriously prevailing among the middle and lower classes of society, and which is well described by a chaplain in the following terms:—"I have frequently endeavoured, but quite in vain, to persuade prisoners convicted of poaching that they offend God in breaking the laws of their country; they answer, the law is oppressive, and they have as much right to the game as others. The man's neighbours, too, second him in this feeling when discharged; they receive him as usual, saying, 'You have been in prison, it is true, but not for stealing or felony.' A man loses no caste by having committed an offence against the Game laws, but when discharged goes into the society of his fellow men quite as usual." In the appendix to the report, another chaplain expresses his opinion that to lessen crime, moral discipline should be used instead of mere corporal punishment, and declares, "That mere corporal punishment alone, or the fear of it will neither prevent the commission of crime, nor cure its effects on the character."

PROVINCIAL.

MR WARD, M.P., AND HIS CONSTITUENTS.—Mr Ward attended a large meeting in Sheffield Town hall on Tuesday last, in conformity to his promise to render an annual account to his constituents. Mr Ward addressed the meeting at great length on the leading questions of the day, and the proceedings of last session. His view was that it is better to force liberal measures from Sir R. Peel, than drive him from office. The first stipulation with the whigs, if they returned to power, should be, that they should throw off the doctrine of "protection;" and he drew a distinction between Sir Robert Peel, who must keep terms with some hundred and sixty county voters, and the whigs, who have in their ranks but six county voters, and therefore have not Sir Robert's excuse for holding back in free trade. When Mr Ward ceased, there was an animated discussion; which resulted in two motions. Mr W. Fisher moved a vote of thanks to Mr Ward for his conduct in parliament. Mr Briggs, to prove the assertion that Mr Ward is losing his popularity by not being sufficiently advanced in liberal politics, moved, that to make Mr Ward a good representative the enactment of the People's Charter is necessary. The show of hands was considerable on both sides; but the amendment was carried. Mr Briggs then moved a vote of thanks to Mr Ward for his attendance that day; which, so far as he had the power, was carrying out one of the requirements of the People's Charter.

EAST CORNWALL.—The candidate on the liberal interest for East Cornwall is not, as stated in our last number, Mr Roberts, but Sir William Trelawny, the lord-lieutenant of the county, and the former representative of East Cornwall. The tory candidate is Mr W. H. Pole Carew, of Anthony, near Liskeard. The *Times* says the success of the latter is all but certain.

BRITISH SCHOOLS, STONY STRATFORD.—The above schools were opened, by a public meeting, on Monday evening, January 27th. In the absence of J. Tritton, Esq., the chair was taken by Thomas Knighton, Esq. The following gentlemen took part in the meeting:—Messrs R. Ainslie, of London; J. Aldis, of London; John Wilson, curate of Leighton Buzzard; Josiah Bull, A.M.; J. Simmons, A.M.; W. Young, of Towcester;—Selby, of Great Horwood; Mr Smith, of the Borough Road school, London; Mr M'Pherson, lecturer on education; and Mr E. Vernon. The large upper room, tastefully decorated by the ladies, was crowded by a numerous audience; a deep interest was created on the subject of education. Those present were highly delighted with the addresses delivered. It is earnestly hoped that this movement of the friends of education will be fully appreciated, and be the means of advancing the cause of morality and true religion in the town and neighbourhood. The whole expense of the erection is about £700, towards which £620 have either been subscribed or promised. Sermons on behalf of the schools were preached, on the previous Sabbath, by Mr John Watson, tutor of Newport Pagnell college; and on the Monday afternoon, by Mr John Aldis.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD INFANT SCHOOL.—On Wednesday last a meeting of the trustees and the ladies' committee of the Leighton Buzzard infant school was held for the purpose of receiving a government inspector, who had appointed that day for the inspection of the school, the inspection of accounts, and other matters required by the council of education. Much interest was excited and labour occasioned by the previous reception of a document addressed to the "officiating clergyman of the parish," containing upwards of 140 questions concerning the origin, the objects, the management, the expense, and other items of a needless and miscellaneous character, replies to which were prepared by the committee. Notwithstanding the school and the accounts were ready for examination, and the trustees and committee in attendance, yet the clerical inspector had forgotten his appointment, and did not present himself at the school until the next morning, when it was inconvenient and impossible, at a moment's notice, to muster more than a few of the friends of the institution. And now another disappointment was in store; for the clerical functionary discovered, from a perusal of the trust deed, that it was not a church school, but supported and managed by a mixed committee of episcopalians and dissenters. He therefore declined the examination of the children, and further interference, stating that another inspector, a lay gentleman, Mr Fletcher, would be commissioned to visit Leighton as the inspector of British and infant schools where the Church Catechism is not used. —*Patriot*.

MEETING AT RUISLIP AGAINST THE GAME LAWS.—On Thursday, a numerous meeting of the farmers and other inhabitant ratepayers of the parish of Ruislip, Middlesex, convened by public notice, was held in the vestry room of Ruislip church, "to consider the cruelty, injustice, and ruinous consequences of the game laws, with a view to petition parliament for the repeal or a modification of the same." Mr N. Somes, a landed proprietor in the parish, was in the chair, and the following resolution was put to the meeting and unanimously carried:—

"Resolved—That, in the opinion of this meeting, the tendency and operation of the game laws are fraught with evils of alarming magnitude, and require prompt legislative interference. That, in all parts of the country, the cruel consequences resulting from the continuance of those laws are made apparent in the extensive destruction of the growing crops of the cultivators of the land, the fearful demoralisation of the people, the sanguinary conflicts and deeds of blood, and the loss of limb and life, so frequently recorded by the public press; the hatred and contempt engendered in the rural districts towards the administration of the laws, the waste of the land by extensive game preserves, the temptation

thus created in the minds of the poor, destitute, ill-paid, and ill-fed labourers [hear, hear], the serious and increasing costs to the county, in county and poor rates, by prosecutions at assizes and sessions, and the maintenance of the wives and families of the prisoners out of the rates—the mercenary character of those laws, since game has been made a marketable commodity, and the contempt thereby created in the minds of the great body of the people towards the owners of the soil [hear, hear]—all conspire to render the game laws, as at present in operation, a deep and withering stain on the national character, and call loudly and imperatively for their immediate repeal."

Petitions to parliament, in the spirit of this resolution, were agreed to before the meeting broke up.

NOTTINGHAM MECHANICS' INSTITUTION, a handsome building in the Grecian style, was opened on Tuesday, with a brilliant festival. Among the guests were the Mayor of Nottingham, Mr Thomas Gisborne, M.P., Mr Gally Knight, M.P., the high sheriff of the county, Mr John Evelyn Denison, M.P., Colonel Launcelot Rolleston, M.P., and several gentlemen of influence in the place. Many excellent speeches were delivered by men of all political parties.

REPEAL OF THE GAME LAWS.—A public meeting of the inhabitants of Aylesbury and its vicinity was held in the county hall, on Monday evening, for the purpose of adopting a petition to parliament in favour of a repeal of the game laws. The meeting was both numerous and respectably attended. Dr Lee, of Hartwell house, presided, and opened the business of the evening by stating that the present meeting had been called in consequence of some gentlemen, farmers, and others, in the neighbourhood, having long been of opinion that the game laws had been most injurious to the general interests of society; that, while they afforded amusement and luxury to a few privileged individuals, they were ruinous to the well-being of the nation at large [hear]. He went at some length into the subject, giving much interesting information. A petition to parliament, setting forth the peculiar evils of the laws, and praying for their entire and immediate abolition, was unanimously adopted. Mr Bright, M.P., then addressed the meeting at some length, and promised to do all he could to expose in parliament the iniquities of the game laws. Votes of thanks to the Duke of Grafton, Sir H. Verney, Mr Bright, and the Chairman, were passed with acclamation.

WEST RIDING FREE TRADE QUALIFICATIONS.—The effort just made to increase the number of Free Traders on the Register of the West Riding must produce important consequences. In this town 450 persons have entitled themselves to be placed on the Register, of whom some, however, would in the ordinary course of things have obtained the qualification. We believe from 200 to 300 will be added at Huddersfield: perhaps an equal number at Halifax: upwards of 150 at Bradford: from 100 to 150 at Wakefield: and considerable numbers at Sheffield, Hebden Bridge, Todmorden, and many other places. Besides this, some hundreds of gentlemen at Rochdale and Manchester have qualified themselves to exercise the franchise in the West Riding of Yorkshire. On the whole, we have no doubt that, after the next registration, the number of liberals and free traders on the register will considerably preponderate over that of the tories and monopolists.—*Leeds Mercury*.

ELECTRICITY AND AGRICULTURE.—Mr Edwin Sidney delivered a lecture at Acle, Norfolk, on the 20th ult., in which he said:—"A plate of zinc and one of copper having been placed at the opposite ends of a row of potatoes, and connected by a wire, their growth was greatly accelerated, and their produce greatly increased. Two pots of mustard in the plant (we quote the *Norfolk News*) were exhibited by Mr Sidney, one of which he had subjected to this treatment, and the other not; and nothing could be more evident than the superiority of the former. The advantages of this plan were also shown in forcing early potatoes, the more obvious method being stated to be to take advantage of the electricity of the atmosphere itself. Mr Sidney then detailed the results of some most curious experiments tried last season upon a quarter of an acre of barley. Two poles were erected in the ground, each eleven feet high, and wire fastened to the earth was loosely extended over them, and again fixed to the opposite side. Two iron wires tacked these fastenings and passed round the piece of land about three inches under ground. The poles were due north and south. The land became an electrical plain, and produce was realised to the extent of twenty-six coombs per acre; and the amount of straw was likewise greatly increased. Mr Sidney stated that he would not lay undue stress on these instances, as they were solitary experiments, but he should strongly advise his agricultural friends to try the principle, and ascertain whether it could not be made conducive to their benefit."

EXTRAORDINARY HIGH TIDE.—On Monday morning, about one o'clock, one of the highest, if not the very highest, tides ever remembered, occurred here. At the entrance of the harbour the table indicated above 21 feet, and the actual rise from low water is computed at 25 feet. Many of the quays and piers were completely covered, and the area of the harbour presented one uninterrupted sheet of water. At the height of the tide, the wind being strong from the land, a portion of the new quay or gateway between Union street and the Esplanade gave way, when a mighty rush of water entered at the aperture into a large open space that has just been excavated, carrying all before it. Blocks of granite and masses of brick work, from one to four or five tons in weight, were rolled along some ten or twelve yards; and a fishing smack that was lying at the quay, was torn from her moorings, and carried high and dry to the extremity of the excavated space. She was got off

on Wednesday. The damage done, though considerable, is not of a very serious nature.—*Dover Chronicle*.—The highest tide since 1816, and with one exception in that year, unparalleled during the last fifty years, visited Hull on Sunday evening week. Many of the streets were flooded, and in one a party of fishermen proceeded in a boat to a public house, obtained some ale, and returned in their boat to the river. Much damage was done to goods in the warehouses. In several chests of tea, the leaves, so high as the water had touched them, were converted into solid masses of cake or paste, while all the rest of the tea in the same chests was as dry as snuff. Read's Island, a tract of land about a mile and a half in length, reclaimed from the Humber, near South Ferriby, on the coast of Lincolnshire, was inundated, and a great number of sheep drowned.

WATER TURNED TO BEER.—Great consternation was caused in the lower part of the city, on Sunday, by the discovery that several water cocks in the Sherman's court district were running with new beer, instead of the pure element. The teetotalers, scandalised, dreaded a thirsty death—the superstitious, affrighted at the miracle, feared the end of the world—the wide-awake philosophers availed themselves of the lucky chance till the turning on of the water in the evening removed the cause of dismay. Saturday was a great brewing day; and it is conjectured that some licensed victualer has lost a portion of his brew by suction into the pipes which supply the water to his vat.—*Western Exeter Times*.

GEOLOGICAL CURIOSITY.—A few days ago, as a miner named William Ellis, and others, were working in the Penydarran mine works, at a depth from the surface of forty-five yards, one of them struck the point of his mandril into a piece of shale, and, to the surprise of all, a frog leaped out of the cleft thus made. When first observed it appeared very weak, and, though a large-sized frog, could crawl only with great difficulty. On closer examination, several peculiarities were observed; its eyes were full-sized, though it could not see, and does not now see, as upon touching the eye it evinces no feeling. There is a line indicating where the mouth would have been had it not been confined, but the mouth has never been opened. Several deformities were also observable; and the spine, which has been forced to develop itself in an angular form, is a sufficient proof of its having grown in a very confined space, even if the hollow in the piece of shale, by corresponding to the shape of the back, did not place the matter beyond a reasonable doubt. It is a very handsome frog, and continues to increase in size and weight, though no food can be given to it; and its vitality is preserved only by breathing through the skin covering the lower jaw, which is very thin. Ellis has been unfolding a theory of its formation, whose chief merit consists less in its being accordant with probability, than in being as original as Will himself. Two questions are asked concerning it, now that the fact of its being found as above described is undisputed; and these are—"How came it into the stone?" and "How did it live there?" To the first Ellis answers, "It could not have had either a father or a mother; it must, therefore, have been made by the hand of nature in the stone!" To the second he replies, "It lived upon the stone itself!" The first hypothesis involves a contradiction: before the frog could have been made in the stone, the hollow must have existed in it. We will not ask—Who is Dame Nature? Where is her workshop? What tools does she work with? but we may be permitted to ask—How did Dame Nature find out that in a particular stone there was a hollow of a certain shape? and, having found out this, how did she get her box in, and find room to work? With regard to the second answer, it is rather difficult to conceive that a frog which had no mouth could feed upon anything at all. We deal thus minutely with these trivial errors, because geological facts in general, and of this description in particular, have been said to contradict the Mosaic account of the creation; and, because we wish to show that the facts of geology, and the first chapter of Genesis, rightly interpreted, completely harmonise with each other. That the age of this frog must be the same as the bed in which it was found is clear; and that it entered that bed while in the process of formation and solidification is equally so. How long that bed has been formed, and what size the frog might have been at its entrance, we cannot take upon us to state; but it is very probable that the bed is very old, and it is very certain that the frog has grown in the stone while it was soft and yielding, as its peculiarities are such as under no other circumstances could have been presented.—*Cardiff Guardian*.

MARRIAGE EXTRAORDINARY.—On Monday last, at the parish church of Rochdale, James Crossley, aged twenty-five, to Martha Wood, aged fifty-five, both paupers. The bridegroom is double-jointed, and has two thumbs on each hand. The bride has been confined to her bed of rheumatism for the last seven years; she had to be carried into the church by even men, colliers. Several hundred persons assembled and the bells were rung.—*Liverpool Chronicle*.

Two men have been fined at the Aylesbury petty sessions, for poaching offences, one being fined one shilling and the other half-a-crown; whilst the costs were respectively nineteen shillings and one pound. At the Ashenden petty sessions, another poacher was fined ten shillings, and his costs were 28s. 6d.

CHALKER'S "GUILT."—No new particulars have been received in this town, proving Chalker's guilt. It is a misstatement got up to check the overwhelming feeling against the punishment of death.—*Suffolk Chronicle*.

A SERIES OF CRIMES.—There is now in Carmarthen county gaol a man named Benjamin Jones, who is committed for trial on three distinct charges,

and it is not unlikely that a fourth, and still more serious one, will be brought against him. It will be remembered that during the notorious Rebecca disturbances a series of events connected with a family of the name of Thomas took place, which were of so fearful a nature, as to excite horror in the mind of every one. Mr Thomas, of Pantycerrig, in the parish of Llanfihangel-Rhosycorn, an elderly man, possessed of a large farm, and otherwise well off in the world, missed a number of his sheep, which he suspected to have been stolen by some of his neighbours. The parties on whom suspicion fell were two sons of a blacksmith, named Jones, and steps were taken to bring them to justice. Mr Thomas made himself very active in prosecuting them, and drew down upon himself the vengeance of the Rebeccaites, with whom, it is supposed, Jones's sons must have been connected, and in whose lawless proceedings they were, doubtless, implicated. The sons kept out of the way of the officers of justice for some time. Meanwhile, a mob of armed men called on Mr Thomas in the night, compelled him to get up and accompany them to a neighbouring farm house, and when there they took some money from him. Shortly after, a message was sent to Mr Thomas, desiring him to call at Jones's house for the purpose of settling about the sheep-stealing affair. The old man went, and was never seen alive afterwards. His body was found in a brook on his road home, the head and shoulders completely out of the water, and in such a situation that scarcely any doubt could be entertained that he had not met his death by accident. Thomas's house and farm buildings were burnt to the ground in the night, and sad havoc was made of his property. Suspicion, of course, fell upon Jones's son, Benjamin, who absconded, and remained concealed for nearly a twelvemonth. A reward of £100 was offered for his apprehension, and every exertion was used to discover his retreat. All was, however, in vain, until about a month back, when he was apprehended, and conveyed to prison. He was then charged with the sheep stealing, for which offence he was fully committed. Evidence being forthcoming, he was next charged with having set Mr Thomas's premises on fire, and for this offence he was also committed for trial. It then came out, that while prowling about Mr Thomas's premises one night, a servant saw him, and immediately asked him "what he wanted there?" He gave an evasive answer, and then asked for a young man who was employed as farm servant. The girl said, "I suppose you want to serve him the same as you did my master, Mr Thomas." Jones replied, "I do not regret anything that I ever did to your master, and I am only sorry I did not kill him sooner." Upon this a quarrel ensued between him and the girl, and he eventually drew a knife and attempted to cut her throat. He made a dash at her neck, which drew blood, but Mrs Thomas, of Pantycerrig, coming up at the time, gave the alarm, and the girl was saved from the villain's clutches. On Monday last, Jones was further charged with cutting and maiming the servant girl, and after a lengthened investigation, was fully committed on this third charge. Mr J. L. Price, the magistrate, has been extremely active in getting evidence against the prisoner, and there seems to be now no doubt that a charge will be also preferred against him for the murder of Mr Thomas. In person, Jones is about five feet eight inches; of an athletic make and ruffianly appearance. His manner before the justices is that of a daring villain, and he is bullying and abusive in the extreme. He now lies in gaol awaiting his trial for three offences, and probably before the assizes other cases may be made out against him.—*Welshman*.

A LACE FACTORY was on Sunday morning entirely destroyed by fire, at the village of Lenton, near Nottingham. There is reason to fear it was the work of an incendiary. The large population of Lenton, consisting of several thousands, left their beds, and worked to their utmost to save property. The machinery contained in the building was valued alone at £1500, of which only £550 was insured in the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire fire office. The building was quite new, and cost several hundred pounds sterling; but its exact worth is not known. The whole of the property belonged to Mr Coxon, and the disaster will prove an irreparable loss to him.

RIOTOUS PAUPERS.—A disturbance took place at the Eton union workhouse on the afternoon of Friday, when nearly five hundred panes of glass, together with the frame-work and sashes of several of the windows, were totally demolished. Five or six of the rioters have been convicted and imprisoned for the offence.

EXPLOSION OF A LOCOMOTIVE ENGINE.—A fatal explosion occurred in the engine shed of the Manchester and Leeds railway, near Manchester, at six o'clock on Tuesday morning. The Irk engine was prepared to take a train from Manchester to Leeds, for which purpose the steam had been got up. Three men were engaged in inspecting the engine—two underneath it, in the ash pit, and one standing near—when the boiler burst, the engine made a summer-set over another engine on an adjacent rail, and, carrying away part of the roof of the shed in the flight, fell over another ash pit. The three men were instantly killed, two being blown into the ash pit over which the engine fell. Two of them were much mutilated; the third seemed to have been killed by a blow which smashed his head. The sufferers were Mills, the engine man of the Irk, Alcock, the fireman, and Stone, the night inspector of engines. Three other workmen were injured by the explosion, and one of them is so badly scalded that his life is in danger. Great damage has been done to the engine shed by the explosion; and the Irk, in passing over the other engine, carried away its chimney, dome,

&c. The inquest on the bodies of the three men began on Wednesday; and, after one witness had been examined, the inquiry was adjourned to Monday, in order that scientific evidence of the causes of the accident might be laid before the jury. The witness examined was an engine-fitter, and he did little more than describe the occurrence as it had been before narrated. The engine had been recently repaired. The explosion carried it a distance of twenty yards.

DEATH FROM PRUSSIC ACID.—A lamentable occurrence took place at Stratton, near Cirencester, on Thursday evening last, whereby Mr Daniel Stuart Holmes, a medical practitioner, and one of the surgeons to the union, came to an untimely end from accidentally taking an over-dose of prussic acid. The effects of prussic acid are described as sedative, and as relieving acute pain; for this purpose the deceased had been in the practice of taking the smallest possible dose.

THE MURDER AT SALTHILL.—The trial of Mr Tawell, who stands charged with the murder of Sarah Hart, his former servant, with whom it is generally believed he cohabited, will take place at Aylesbury, on Tuesday, the 11th of March, before Mr Justice Pattison. Mr Fitzroy Kelly, who has been specially retained, in conjunction with Mr Montague Chambers, for the defence of the accused, has, it is stated, received a retaining fee of three hundred guineas.

A CANINE CATO.—On Saturday last, a fine, handsome, and valuable black dog, of the Newfoundland species, belonging to Mr Floyd, solicitor, Holmfirth, committed suicide, by drowning itself in the river which flows at the back of its owner's habitation. For some days previous the animal seemed less animated than usual; but on this particular occasion he was noticed to throw himself into the water and endeavour to sink by preserving perfect stillness of the legs and feet. Being dragged out of the stream, the dog was tied up for a time; but had no sooner been released than he again hastened to the water, and again tried to sink; and was again got out. This occurred many times; until at length the animal, with repeated efforts, appeared to get exhausted, and, by dint of keeping his head determinedly under water for a few minutes, succeeded at last in obtaining his object; for when taken out this time he was indeed dead. The case is worth recording, as affording another proof of the general instinct and sagacity (!) of the canine race.—*Leeds Intelligencer*.

IRELAND.

NATIONAL EDUCATION IN IRELAND.—The new movement against the government system of education, originating out of the recent declaration of the primate and the other prelates, is rapidly extending itself throughout the different dioceses of Ireland. Cork and Limerick have already "pronounced," and this day brings the manifesto of the clergy of Ardagh; so, that whatever views Sir Robert Peel may entertain with regard to his promise at the close of last session upon the subject of education, it is not likely that they will be carried into effect without an opposition which, perhaps, was not calculated upon at the period of their enunciation.—*Times*.—A meeting of noblemen and gentlemen was held at Morrison's Hotel, Dublin, on Friday, for the purpose of taking into consideration the subject of national education. The meeting was strictly confined to the persons taking part in the proceedings. The Earl of Roden took the chair, and Mr G. A. Hamilton, M.P., acted as secretary. Resolutions were unanimously agreed to, approving of the able and dignified declaration on the subject of education made by his Grace the Lord Primate of Ireland, and the majority of the bishops of the established church, as calculated to create confidence and hope among the friends of sound scriptural education.

LAND COMMISSION.—Mr O'CONNELL.—Mr O'Connell was examined before the Landlord and Tenant commission, on Tuesday, at the office in Dublin Castle. His examination occupied upwards of three hours, upon the state of agriculture and the condition of the farmers and peasantry in Ireland. The examination was conducted chiefly by the chairman, Lord Devon. From the mode of examination adopted generally, it would appear that the commissioners are disposed to recommend the adoption of measures of a practical kind. Their report will be ready for presentation to parliament very soon after the opening of the session.—*Chronicle*.

THE BEQUESTS ACT.—Meetings continue to be held against the Charitable Bequests act. A numerous meeting called by the grocers' assistants was held at Dublin on Saturday, for that object, which Mr O'Connell attended. A vote of unlimited confidence in him was passed by acclamation. The *Dublin Evening Mail* has discovered a new constitutional difficulty in the way of the Bequests act. The oath of supremacy binds the oath-taker not to recognise the authority of the Pope or to hold fellowship with the See of Rome; whereas the Bequests act not only recognises the authority of the Roman catholic prelates, but ministers have formally acknowledged their ecclesiastical offices, in appointing the commission, and have given them precedence of temporal peers. Thus, contends the *Mail*, "the oath of supremacy is virtually abrogated, if not formally repealed."

NEW REGISTRY BILL FOR IRELAND.—It is stated very confidently that a totally new Registry and Franchise bill is amongst the Irish measures to be proposed by government next session, and that a new county franchise is to be created, based upon a tenure by lease for fourteen years at least, without what is termed "the solvent tenant beneficial interest test," which, in the law at present existing, has

caused so many conflicting decisions and such general dissatisfaction. The new bill is spoken of as much more comprehensive than that introduced by Lord Eliot last session, and which met with such decided opposition.—*Correspondent of the Chronicle.*

REDUCTION OF THE REPEAL STAFF.—The Dublin correspondent of the *Times* makes a further report of what has passed in the "retrenching committee" of the repeal association. "The expenses of the 'monster trial,' it is now ascertained, ranged between £24,000 and £28,000; nearly one half of which was swallowed up by the costs of the agents for the traversers. Some unpleasant controversy took place in committee upon the claim of Dr Nagle to be retained at his salary of two guineas a week as one of the 'drawers up' of these voluminous productions dignified by the title of 'reports.' The claim was resisted by one of the leaders of the Young Ireland party; who strongly insisted upon the necessity of gentlemen discharging such duties gratuitously. Dr Nagle, who is a member of the committee, was actually present, fighting in person his own battle, until reminded by Mr O'Connell of the propriety, to say the least, of his withdrawing pending the discussion of a question altogether relating to himself. A letter was read from a priest in the North, strongly condemnatory of the practice of withholding all accounts of the disbursements of the repeal funds; a proceeding which he stated to be most mischievous in its results, and to have caused great dissatisfaction among the contributors. A fair balance sheet, he thought, would have the effect of doubling the subscriptions in the district where the writer resided. The reverend gentleman's suggestion is to be taken into consideration; several of the committee being highly favourable to the plan of publishing either monthly or quarterly abstracts of the revenue, setting forth the sums of money received, how much expended, and for what purpose, the balance in hand, &c. 'Better late than never.' Still this threatened measure of future precaution forcibly brings to mind another old-fashioned proverb respecting the folly of 'shutting the stable when the steed is stolen.'"

We are sorry to find that a resolution has been passed by the committee of the Repeal association, calling upon the Irish members not to attend their places in the next session of parliament.—*Chronicle.*

THE IRISH MISSION TO ROME.—It is stated, that the deputation to the holy see is likely to consist of Lord Ffrench, Mr John O'Connell, M.P., and the following Roman catholic prelates:—Dr M'Hale, Archbishop of Tuam; Dr Keating, Bishop of Ferns; and Dr Higgins, Bishop of Ardagh. The *Times* correspondent writes:—"It is stated that the Right Rev. Bishop Denvir is about to proceed to Rome on the part of his brother commissioners (Drs Crolly and Murray), to lay before his Holiness the real state of the catholic bequests question and the agitation to which it has led."

We hear that the cause of disturbance in Roscommon is the refusal of many of the landowners to let con-acre at less than from nine to thirteen pounds per acre; this sum the con-acre tenants consider too high; and on the landlord refusing to set it less, two or three hundred men assemble with spades, and in the course of a night turn up several acres of pasture land.—*Longford Journal.*

DREADFUL ACCIDENT AT A WAKE—ELEVEN LIVES LOST.—A frightful accident occurred at Limerick on Sunday evening last. A numerous party were assembled at the wake of a poor woman, named Mary Shaughnessy, who died the same day, in the attic story of an old house in the abbey. Owing to the pressure, the floor suddenly came down with a tremendous crash, bringing with it the other floors of the house, and burying over thirty poor creatures in the ruins! Assistance being procured, with much difficulty the rubbish was quickly cleared away, and the dead bodies of nine human beings were taken from beneath. Two others expired on the way to the hospital, and seventeen others were seriously injured.

THE COMET.—The comet has been observed six times since our last notice, at the Observatory of Trinity college, Dublin; namely, on the 18th, 24th, 27th, 28th, 30th, and 31st of January. On the last mentioned (Friday) evening, by a mean taken as before, the comet was found to have eighteen hours three minutes of right ascension, and thirty-five degrees thirty-two minutes of north polar distance, nearly at forty-six minutes after eight o'clock, mean time. It is now a very difficult object to observe, not bearing the least illumination.—*Dublin Packet.*

SCOTLAND.

"POLITICAL MARTYRS" MONUMENT.—On Monday last, Lord Robertson granted an interdict, at the instance of certain proprietors of the Old Calton burying-ground, against the managers and incorporation of Calton, to whom that ground originally belonged, for granting an unoccupied stance within it for the purpose of erecting a monument to the memory of Muir, Fyshe, Palmer, Margatrot, Gerald, and Skirving, commonly called the "Scottish political martyrs," who were transported for sedition in the years 1793-94, and against the committee for the said monument from erecting any such structure within that enclosure.—*Scottish Herald.*

AN ELEVATED SEA BEACH.—The operation of opening the ground for the Granton railway has exposed an interesting section of alluvial soil at Wardie. After a surface of sandy loam, mixed with some peaty substances, from the decay of vegetable remains, there is exposed, at the depth of two or three feet, a bed of sea sand, on the surface of which lie pebbles and shells, indicating in the most distinct manner the remains of a sea-beach. The shells are smooth and water-worn, and are principally specimens of the univalves which exist at present on the neigh-

bouring shores. This deposit is elevated about ten or twelve feet, as far as may be hurriedly guessed, above the level of high water tides—no great elevation when considered geologically, but still not the less interesting. It is ascertained with some degree of accuracy, that the land in the neighbourhood of the Baltic is rising. The level of the west coast of South America is also supposed to have changed considerably, for at certain distances from the sea there are found terraces, containing shells and other marine deposits. At Wardie, the sea at present has rather a tendency to encroach, and very likely did so to a considerable extent before the present bulwark was erected. The low cliffs on which the villas stand are probably those against which the sea formerly beat, when it laid down the now exposed beach, before its present elevation, or the subsequent depression of the sea; now, again, a new action has commenced, and the sea eats away the coast so far as the bulwarks permit.—*Caledonian Mercury.*

Miscellaneous.

ANASTATIC PRINTING.—The *Art Union* has favoured us with a specimen sheet of this style of printing, and we could not discover any difference from the usual mode of printing, except that there is a delicate softness in the pictorial portion, showing that the lines had been impressed from the originals. We conclude with the following observations from the specimen sheet of the *Art Union*:

"It has been the fate of all beneficial innovations—and the more especially if they recommend themselves by their cheapness—that they have had to combat an array of prejudice, and the determined opposition of 'vested interests'; this method of re-producing books and prints will not be exempted from the common lot; but such is the extreme simplicity and unexampled rapidity of the process in multiplying engravings, drawings, and books, that it must inevitably be, ere long, established in general estimation. We have heard, years ago, of similar propositions, but since they have never been matured into a solution of all difficulties, as in the present case, let the honour and profit be to those by whose labour and ingenuity re-production is rendered not only practicable, but triumphantly simple beyond all the happiest ideas of stereotype. The drawings and prints which accompany this notice, with the letter-press, form together an example of this method of printing. The letter-press was first set in type by the ordinary printer of the *Art Union*, leaving spaces for the drawn or engraved illustrations, which having been set into their respective places on a proof of the letter-press, the whole was cast on to a zinc plate, and so printed off; and it may be here observed, that there is no limit to the thousands of copies that may be drawn, nor the slightest diminution of excellence in successive impressions, since new plates, *ad infinitum*, may be prepared from the copies now yielded."

"The principal merits claimed by the proprietors of this patent are, in the first place, their method of repeating in low relief (something like a lithographic printing surface) the tracery of an engraved wood block or copperplate from a cut or engraving from such block or plate, in such manner as immediately to yield impressions which are not in any way to be distinguished from those drawn from the original engraved surface. This is effected by means of acids diluted to various degrees of strength which act upon those parts of the plates remaining unprotected by the ink, and so leave the printing surface very slightly in relief. Another chief merit of this invention is the successful provision against the spreading of the ink under any degree of pressure; whereby the finest lines and sharpest edges are repeated with singular precision. Another extraordinary result of the invention is the restoration of ancient or injured engravings or etchings—that is, if an engraving have been injured, not, be it understood, as regards the paper, but faded through carelessness, or defaced by accident—such engraving can be perfectly restored by having every line and touch refreshed with new ink, so as to give the work with all its details as if fresh from the wood or copper."

"To describe briefly the preparation of a plate or cylinder, let us suppose a newspaper about to be reprinted by this means. The sheet is first moistened with dilute acid and placed between sheets of blotting paper, in order that the superfluous moisture may be absorbed. The ink neutralises the acid, which is pressed out from the blank spaces only, and etches them away. In all cases where the letter press is of recent date, or not older than half a year, a few minutes suffice for this purpose. The paper is then placed upon the plate with which the letter press to be transferred is in immediate contact, and the whole passed under a press, on removal from which, and on carefully disengaging the paper, the letters are found in reverse on the plate, which is then rubbed with a preparation of gum, after which the letters receive an addition of ink, which is immediately incorporated with that by which they are already formed. These operations are effected in a few minutes. The surface of the plate round the letters is bitten, in a very slight degree, by the acid; and, on the application of the ink, it is rejected by the zinc, and received only by the letters, which are charged with the ink by the common roller used in hand printing. Each letter comes from the press as clear as if it had been imprinted by type metal; and the copies are facsimiles which cannot be distinguished from the original sheet."

—*Athenaeum.*

A RAILWAY TOWN.—Wolverton station, on the London and Birmingham railway, is very closely built; it already contains eight streets, seven of these bearing the names of Messrs Garnett, Cooke, Walker, Glyn, Ledsam, Creed, and Bury, directors and officers of the company. The number of houses is 199. The population about 1000. The church is a substantial and very neat structure, seating about 850 persons, including a gallery for 200 children. The churchyard includes more than an acre. The parsonage house is also an exceedingly neat building. The endowment for the clergyman is £2,000, vested in Queen Anne's bounty, giving an annual stipend of £62. The patrons of the living, which is intended to be a perpetual curacy, with Wolverton

station assigned to it as a district (for spiritual purposes only), are the five trustees of the celebrated Dr Radcliffe. The present clergyman, the Reverend George Weight, M.A., was appointed to the station by the Lord Bishop of Lincoln in 1841. The church and parsonage were built at the expense of the Radcliffe trustees, who also gave the ground. The cost exceeded £4,000. The endowment was given by the proprietors and friends of the company. The services are held on Sunday morning and evening, and on Wednesday evening. A branch association, in connexion with the Church Missionary Society, has lately been formed, and is very liberally supported. The company have given a large room for the use of the Wesleyan methodists, which is fitted up as a chapel, and is very well attended. A Sunday school is attached to it. The company's day and Sunday schools are entirely under the charge of the clergyman; they educate about 250 children, under the care of active and efficient teachers. All the expenses of salaries, books, &c., are defrayed by the company. Connected with these schools there is a large lending library, to which the children and their parents have gratuitous admission. Other persons have the use of all the books and magazines by paying 1d. weekly. The directors, with a wise liberality, have supplied these schools with various large maps, a fine globe, a box of geological specimens, an extensive apparatus for explaining the mechanical powers, numerous drawings of animals, &c. Nothing the clergyman recommends for the good of the schools is ever refused. The schools are open to children whose parents are of any or of no religious denomination; children from all the neighbouring parishes are also admitted. Children of the protestant and catholic, the churchman and the dissenter, all together, and no difference is made between them. They learn the same lessons, and read from the same Bible. In the evening one of the school rooms is frequently open, either for scientific, benevolent, and temperance lectures, or else for purposes of mutual instruction. No charge is ever made for the use of the room. A children's savings' bank is established, of which the clergyman is the treasurer. It had, during the last two years, a very large number of members. Almost all the company's servants, residing at the station, are members of clubs and benefit societies. The principal of these are the London and Birmingham Railway Society, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Manchester Unity. A considerable number of the men have formed themselves into a musical club; it is well supplied with brass instruments, the use of which is exceedingly well understood. The company have given the people a large reading-room, with an adjoining room for a library. They have also liberally contributed to its funds. This reading room enjoys the active and zealous patronage of Edward Bury, Esq., who warmly interests himself in its prosperity. It was established in 1840. The rooms, with coals and gas, are given without any charge. There are upwards of a hundred members of the library, viz., forty-eight at the station, thirty-six in Birmingham, and eighteen in London. The charge for the use of books, newspapers, periodicals, &c., varies from 1d. to 3d. per week. Non-subscribers pay 1d. per week each. All books are conveyed free of charge. The library contains 700 volumes. Scientific lectures are occasionally given. The supply of papers and periodicals is exceedingly liberal. The institution is managed by a committee of twelve of the mechanics, in rotation. Another important element of usefulness in connexion with Wolverton is, "the Station Lending Library," under the sole charge of the clergyman. Its object is to furnish a gratuitous supply of books to every first-class station on the entire line. In this arrangement, the locomotive departments at Birmingham and at Camden station are included. Supplies have also been placed at Roade and Bletchley. The library boxes were given by the company. Each contains fifty or sixty volumes. It is placed under the charge of the chief clerk at the stations; the books are exchanged as soon as read; and the boxes are removed from one station to another as often as it is requisite. An exact account is kept of the number of times the books are issued. More than 700 volumes are now in circulation between London and Birmingham. The books are extensively read, and the liberality of the company to their very numerous servants fully appreciated. We will only add, that the company rent to their people several acres of ground for gardens, and that they are now applying to the trustees for at least ten acres more for the same purpose.—*Railway Record.*

GUIDE TO THE WORKHOUSE.—TO YOUNG MARRIED COUPLES.—You are supposed to begin housekeeping with a decent competence, which, with industry and frugality, will enable you to live comfortably, and put something by. Never, therefore, dream of saving, except of saving yourselves trouble. Be sure to rise very late; you will thus have the less time to spend in minding your affairs. Also, wives particularly, be as long as you can in dressing of a morning; whereby you will pleasantly get over two or even three hours, which might have been devoted to domestic drudgery. On no account do anything for yourselves that servants can do for you; and, therefore, do not be content with one servant. Bear constantly in mind the maxims following:—It is impossible for a lady to darn stockings. She can by no means make a shirt for her husband, or a dress for herself. She must never be seen in the kitchen. As to looking after her linen, helping to make beds, or cook, the very thought of such exertions ought to kill her. You should have two dinners daily: one for your servants at two, and another for yourselves at seven, until you are blessed

with a family, and then you should have three. Hot dishes every day are indispensable; never, for economy's sake, put up with a cold dinner. Have fires in every room in the house. Strictly follow the fashions; you should not wear out an old dress, if ever so good. Use towels, handkerchiefs, and the like, without the least regard to your washing bill. In the matter of perfumes, gloves, and stationery, consult nothing whatever but your sense—common sense excepted. As regards eating and drinking, have the best of everything. Give plenty of parties; and, if you doubt whether you ought to keep a carriage or not, give yourselves the benefit of the doubt, and keep one. The extreme of luxury in furniture is too obviously advisable to be dwelt upon; and you will feel the advantage of it when your things come to be sold off. Indulge yourselves, generally, in every wish; and never put up with the least inconvenience to avoid the greatest expense. Do not bridle your respective wishes, or sacrifice anything except each other's fortunes, for each other; whenever you want what you cannot have, get into an ill-humour—and show it. Accustom yourselves to call every, the smallest, act of self-denial, "horrid," "shocking," "miserable," "dreadful," "intolerable;" shut your ears against advice, and let your sole considerations be your own will and pleasure, and the world's opinion. Having five hundred a-year, live at the rate of a thousand, and plunge, without scruple, headlong into debt. You will find these directions an infallible "Guide to the Workhouse."—*Punch*.

DOMESTIC HAPPINESS.—The great end of prudence is to give cheerfulness to those hours which splendour cannot gild, and acclamation cannot exhilarate. Those soft intervals of unbended amusement, in which a man shrinks to his natural dimensions, and throws aside the ornaments and disguises which he feels in privacy to be useless encumbrances, and to lose all effect when they become familiar. To be happy at home, is the ultimate result of all ambition, the end to which every enterprise and labour tends, and of which every desire prompts the execution. It is, indeed, at home that every man must be known by those who would have a just estimate of his virtue or felicity—for smiles and embroidery are alike occasional, and the mind is often dressed for show in painted honour and fictitious benevolence.—*Johnson*.

ALWAYS BE LEARNING SOMETHING.—There is an anecdote told of Sir Walter Scott, which, though it does not do him much honour at its close, yet it has its moral. Sir Walter piqued himself that he never met with any man but he could get something out of him. He was traveling in a stage coach, where he encountered a man whom he tried in every possible manner; but it was like firing into clay—he could elicit nothing. At last, in despair, he said to the Scotchman, "What is it that I can touch upon that you know better than myself?" Said the Scotchman, "Do ye ken anything o' wash leather?" Sir Walter said, "I know nothing about wash leather, nor do I wish to know." Now there Sir Walter was wrong: he should have followed it up, and put some questions, and, depend upon it, he would have derived some useful knowledge from the maker of wash leather. Take botany; it is the easiest of all subjects to study: I don't know one easier. Every one can walk in the fields, and see the growth of plants; and let me tell you that every branch of science is in itself a preparation, as it is the cultivation, of a new science. For instance, in painting: I walk over a desolate heath, such as Mousehold; I am fond of drawing, and know something of colours; and in every shade of light I perceive scenes and beauties which a man who is ignorant of painting knows nothing about. Botany may be studied in your walks, even in the hedges. When I was in my own parish—and I like sometimes to revert to that time—I encouraged the study of botany amongst the scholars of my school. I told them, when they were out in the fields, if they saw any flower with which they were unacquainted, to bring it to me, and I would explain it to them. I have now the best *hortus siccus* of English flowers, probably, in existence—the collection of a girl belonging to that school. She used to gather the flowers, and dry them, and place them in a book—inquiring of me about their nature and properties, when she was ignorant of them. I told her I was afraid she wasted her time in making such a collection. She said, no—she gathered them in her way to and from market, and on other occasions: she wasted no time. That book I now have; and I need not say that I value it highly.—*Bishop of Norwich*.

STATUTE LAW AND THE BIBLE.—A writer in the *Westminster Review*, just published, in an article on the legislation of 1844, says, he has "taken the trouble of counting the words contained in these statutes" (those of one year, in which there were considerably fewer acts passed than usual), and he found them amount to 762,000! "Now," says he, "the whole Bible is comprised in very few more words; whilst the New Testament contains only about 198,000. Thus, the entire code of Christian law, with the history of its author, is comprised in about one quarter of the words which the imperial parliament uses to express the laws it enacts in a single year." The writer goes on to say, "This is no fanciful evil, of hyper-critical birth. It is a very serious grievance, giving rise to constant and costly litigation. The confused and illiterate language of acts of parliament, it is said, has not cost the people afflicted by falling within their operation less than a million sterling, within the course of a few years. A learned judge, not many years ago, said, 'Cod forbid I should be expected to understand all the statute law of the land.' But why is this? What conceivable excuse can there be, for not expressing

with the utmost plainness that which the poorest and humblest subject is required to know, understand, and obey?"

SIR JAMES MACKINTOSH.—His prodigious memory was so chastised by judgment as never to overpower. He needed not the foil of ordinary minds to set off his mental superiority. Among the select of France and England, by the side of Hallam and Sismondi, he surpassed all other minds in the extent of his knowledge and freshness of ideas. With Cuvier and Herschel, the accomplished philosopher, great in science almost as in literature, shone forth—in conversational tact, and in that quiet repartee, which, uttered by his lips, was pointed, but never caustic, he could cope with Jeffrey. I saw him in his decline, but a few weeks before he was gathered to the tomb. It was after the slight but fatal accident that brought into play lurking mischief in the constitution, had occurred, that I took a last farewell of the historian and philosopher, whose works a more thinking age is beginning fully to comprehend and to value. His face was then blanched almost to an unearthly hue; and the first conviction that I felt on looking at my revered friend was, that his shattered frame could sustain no fresh attack of disease. Alas! the axe was then laid to the root of the tree. I knew it not; but, though he scarcely partook of any food, save the sparest and lightest, I trusted that he was convalescent. Never did I see him more cheerful. An early friend of his family, a Scottish lady of condition, upwards of eighty, sat at his hospitable board, and recalled to him the days of Adam Smith, whom Sir James Mackintosh just remembered, and spoke of the childhood of Harry Brougham, Frank Horner, and James Mackintosh, as if they were but young men still, and she, already stepping into the grave, in her prime—a happy illusion, with which let none seek to interfere.—*Bentley's Miscellany*.

POPISH BIBLES.—There are changes going on silently, in these times of peaceful discussion, which will make all things new. Among these changes, nothing is more remarkable than a sudden desire to read the Bible, which has seized the Roman Catholics. An edition of one thousand Douay bibles, published in this city ten years ago, was worked off with difficulty. Recently, a quarto edition of five thousand was all sold in a few months, and large numbers of various editions are constantly selling. In fact, the Catholics have suddenly become a bible-reading people. It is the Douay translation, to be sure, with notes not the very best (though many of them are excellent), and the translation of some passages is palpably sectarian and untrue. Yet the great truths of inspiration are so plainly taught, that praying to saints, the miracles of saints, and the whole lumber of such superstitions, must soon disappear under its influence. What has waked up this wonderful desire for the Bible we know not, unless it be the controversy about its exclusion from the public schools. Nothing could have been more likely to produce this effect than such a discussion. The tendency of everything, however, is to discussion. The Bible is certainly coming to be more properly appreciated by Protestants than it used to be, and why should not the same change go on amongst Catholics? The craft of their demanding belief without proof has had its day, and now every man demands of whoever makes a proposition that he should prove it.—*New York Journal of Commerce*.

THE FIRST GENTLEMAN IN EUROPE.—The Earl of Malmesbury, who went to Brunswick with instructions from George III., to demand the Princess Caroline for the Prince of Wales, gives the following characteristic account of their first meeting:—"I immediately notified the arrival to the King and Prince of Wales; the last came immediately. I, according to the established etiquette, introduced (no one else being in the room) the Princess Caroline to him. She very properly, in consequence of my saying to her it was the right mode of proceeding, attempted to kneel to him. He raised her (gracefully enough) and embraced her, said barely one word, turned round, retired to a distant part of the apartment, and, calling me to him, said, 'Harris, I am not well; pray get me a glass of brandy.' I said, 'Sir, had you not better have a glass of water?' upon which he, much out of humour, said, with an oath, 'No; I will go directly to the Queen,' and away he went. The Princess, left during this short moment alone, was in a state of astonishment; and, on my joining her, said, 'Mon Dieu! est ce que le Prince est toujours comme cela? Je le trouve très gros, et nullement aussi beau que son portrait.' I said his Royal Highness was naturally a good deal affected and flurried at this first interview, but she certainly would find him different at dinner."

NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS.—A contemporary, in answer to a querulous correspondent, has the following note, which will be found applicable to, probably, every newspaper in Great Britain:—"The correspondent who will best understand this paragraph is respectfully requested to recollect that newspapers are not produced by supernatural means, nor even prepared, and printed, and published after the manner that many patent and very useful articles are manufactured, 'to order.' He will have the liberality to consider how obliging an editor must become before he can satisfy every reader—every contributor—every correspondent—and every applicant. He will have the kindness to reflect upon the amount of mental and physical labour necessary for producing a paper calculated to please everybody. He will good-naturedly calculate the profit likely to accrue from editorial pursuits—and, above all, he will have the honest manliness to admit that, in the management of a journal, it is better to deserve general support than to strive for individual patronage."

EVERYBODY'S COLUMN.

Punch says that it is expected a patent will soon be granted to Drs Newman and Pusey, for an entire new method of introducing heat into churches.

A poor workman named Hoover, of Port Carbon, in Pennsylvania, has recently been left property worth 1,500,000 dollars by a relative in Germany.

The University of Dublin have conferred on Mr Emerson Tennent, M.P., the degree of Doctor of Laws.

Sir Edward Knatchbull has not attended one of the late cabinet councils.

The *Medical Times* records three cases of paralysis, in the arms and lower extremities, cured by frictions with black soap.

The *Tablet* says that mesmerism has been "distinctly prohibited by the proper authorities at Rome."

MENTAL FREEDOM.—No human power can force the impenetrable intrenchments of the freedom of the mind; compulsion never persuades, it only makes hypocrites.—*Fenelon*.

It is said that Liebig when a boy was called at school "booby," as he was not distinguished for verbal memory.

A quantity of hops have been imported from the United States under the new tariff. They are said to be excellent.

"Why are you so melancholy?" said the Duke of Marlborough to a soldier, after the battle of Blenheim. "I am thinking," said the man, "how much blood I have shed for sixpence."

A correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* states that the new comet is now visible between Gamma of Draco, and Kappa of Cygnus, with telescopes of very moderate power.

TO PUT OUT A CHIMNEY ON FIRE.—Shut the door of the apartment. Sprinkle several handfuls of salt on the fire. The fire will cease to burn in the chimney. It is thought that this effect is produced by the production of muriatic acid gas.

A SHARP RETORT.—"Please to bestow your charity on a poor sweeper," said one of the crossing gentry to a frequent passer. "I haven't got any," was the gentleman's reply. "Sir, I believe you," was the retort; and the gentleman was so struck with it that he turned back and gave him 6d.

NOVEL EXPEDIENT.—At a bootmaker's shop in Ipswich is exhibited the following notice, which in the present state of the law of debtor and creditor he has resorted to, and most probably may be effective:—"Whereas, ——— owes me £2 19s., which has been due two years: this is to inform him that unless it is paid within a week, I shall fill up the blank with his name and abode."

WITTY REPLY.—An unfortunate landlord going round to collect his rents, sent his servant forward to prepare his tenant for his visit. On reaching the house, and finding his servant taking a survey, and apparently endeavouring to gain admittance, "What's the matter?" said he, "is the door bolted?" "No, master," was the reply, "but the lodger is."

The cost of the British establishments formed for putting down smuggling is upwards of £500,000 a year, while the value of the contraband goods seized do not perhaps exceed £3,000 a year; and yet it is a fact that goods of the value of between £3,000,000 and £4,000,000, chiefly brandy and tobacco, are every year smuggled into the three kingdoms.

METHOD IN MADNESS.—In the first illness, when Willis, who was a clergyman, entered the room, the King (George III) asked him if he, who was a clergyman, was not ashamed of himself for exercising such a profession. "Sir," said Willis, "our Saviour himself went about healing the sick."—"Yes," answered the King, "but he had not £700 a year for it."—*Life and Correspondence of Jas. Harris, first Earl of Malmesbury*.

TRUTH.—There is a passage in Tillotson that should be perused by all those notorious for what is called "drawing the long bow." He observes, that "truth is always consistent with itself, and needs nothing to help it out. It is always near at hand, and sits upon our lips, and is ready to drop out before we are aware; whereas a lie is troublesome, and sets a man's invention upon the rack; and one needs a great many more to make it good."

ANTIQUITY OF MESMERISM.—Magnetism appears to have been well understood by the Egyptian hierarchy; not only from some of the effects we find recorded, but in one of the chambers, whose hieroglyphics are devoted to medical subjects, we find a priest in the very act of that mesmerism which is pretended to have been discovered a few years ago. The patient is seated in a chair while the operator describes the mesmeric passes, and an attendant waits behind to support the head when it has bowed in the mysterious sleep.

THE WEATHER IN BRITAIN FOR 1844.—There have been twenty-five fewer rainy days in 1844 than in the preceding year, and twenty-two fewer than the average of the nine preceding years.

It is estimated, that the Croydon and Epsom and the Plymouth and Exeter Railways, which are to be constructed upon the atmospheric principle, will take about £30,000 worth of leather to complete them.

Mr O'Connell, last week, at a meeting of the Repeal Association, said, "It sometimes came over him that he would be sorry when the repeal was obtained, he felt such infinite pleasure in seeking for it."

GARRULITY.—Persons who are trifling, tedious, and incessant talkers, and who hurry down the stream of loquacity without ballast or rudder, convince us that their speeches originate in the mouth, not in the understanding. It is observed that the tongues of such babblers should not be permitted to float free and loose in their mouths, but should be restrained by the strong and deeply fixed anchors of judgment and discretion.—*Aulus Gellius*.

Literature.

THE PERIODICALS.

If our readers wish to know what "The New Quarterly Review" is, the ninth number, published last month, is a fair specimen. "We vary," say its conductors, "from 'The Quarterly,' not being absolutists, but constitutionalists. We also entertain higher church views than that review has yet expressed; and we are fully determined to maintain the church clear from the action of Erastianism. We do not recognise the principle that what is expedient is just." So far we agree with them. But this leaves us at liberty to differ vastly as to what constitutes their creed of justice. The "Review" is the organ of "Young England"—a party professing some good things, with many bad ones. Its views of church powers—of "the consecrated existence of a nobility"—of "commerce," which the number before us declares "is free"—and of many other things, we can be expected to have little sympathy with. Yet, like all young parties, it is fresh, and honest, and bold. Its doctrine of "retrograde progression" is its great fault and folly. It is unnecessary to say that its "Review" is conducted with talent.

"The North British Review," for February, sustains the promise of the earlier numbers. The articles are of very various kinds, and on very various subjects; the chief of which are "Dana's System of Mineralogy," "Life and Writings of Dr Arnold"—not the worst of the many papers written about that able and estimable man; "Report of the Poor Laws in Scotland," "Palestine," containing some good remarks on the host of author-travelers thither; and "The Jesuits in France," from which we give a short extract:—

"We shall close our article with one observation. We have seen that the majority of the bishops have been of Louis Philippe's choice, and we are quite certain that they and their party have gone so far, relying, to a certain extent, on the connivance or winking of the government at what was going on. Louis Philippe, when in this country, is known to have said, that whenever a war breaks out, it will be a religious war; and there is very little doubt that his various governments have, under his directions, prepared themselves to lead the Catholic party in such a struggle. Those who want proofs of this have only to recall to mind the conduct of France in the East as well as in the Pacific. The missionaries sent forth by the very religious congregations and associations which the laws forbid in France, were not only tolerated, but materially assisted, by the political influence of France abroad. This is honestly confessed by M. Lenormant, and urged as an argument in support of the Jesuits. He speaks of certain schools at Smyrna, at which persons of all sects and religions are instructed, without the slightest attempt at proselytism:—'Thus,' says he, 'respect for Christianity, and attachment to France, penetrated everywhere. If, at a future period, political causes were to take us to those shores, we shall gather the fruit of these evangelical seeds (!), and obstacles will be more easily overcome. Such are the agents that catholicism spreads everywhere, and which it inspires in our favour. The most cunning, the most active, the most expensive diplomacy, would not arrive at such results.'"

"The Westminster Review" has a cutting exposure of Lord Stanley's sayings and doings, proving what most men need not to be proved at all, that he is one of the most illiberal statesmen, and worst colonial secretaries, that this country ever possessed. The other articles are "Legislation of 1844," "Life of Dr Arnold," "Miss Barrett's Poems," "Influence of Aristocracies," "Abyssinia and Kordofan," "Railroad to Suez," "Commercial Statistics," "The Earl of Eldon," &c. "The Eclectic Review" we deem unusually excellent this month. Besides several shorter articles, "Dr Halley's Congregational Lecture on the Sacraments," "Barère's Memoirs," "Justin Martyr," and "Secularity of Church Establishments," are especially deserving of praise. To the last-mentioned paper we would direct particular attention. It is evidently written by a scholar, a gentleman, and a Christian. It is a valuable contribution to the cause of nonconformity.

"Tait's Magazine" continues the "Tale of the Celts and Saxons," "Letters from Naples," "A Rosary from the Rhine," and "Life and Correspondence of Niebuhr;" and reviews Talfourd's "Vacation Rambles and Thoughts," Robertson's "Journal of a Clergyman during a visit to the Peninsula," "Walpole's Memoirs of the reign of George III.," &c., &c. It is an unusually good number.

"Cruikshank's Table Book" raises a laugh at the expense of mesmerism, which will not hurt it, though it may do good to those who need a merry heart. The picture illustrating the subject is worthy of the great George. Indeed, we think his portion of the performance is superior to that of his coadjutor. The present number is not equal to the first.

"Douglas Jerrold's Shilling Magazine" improves. It keeps prominently in view, according to its promise, great social questions, and treats them in a spirit of impartial humanity. "The History of St Giles and St James," by the editor, progresses well. "Slavery"—"Paul Bell in Account Current with William Wordsworth, Esq., Laureate"—"Peasants and Pheasants"—"Music for the Million"—are all, in different moods, worthy pleas for right and charity. The "Recollections of Hazlitt"

are interesting notices of that talented and eccentric man. "Juniper Hedgehog" writes a pithy account of home affairs to his relatives abroad. His third letter begins with the following solution of the Archbishop of Canterbury's interference:—

"We're all safe for a time; the Pope hasn't quite got hold of us yet. You recollect when I was a boy, how I would fling stones, and call names, and go among other boys, pelting 'em bright and left, and swearing I didn't mean to hurt 'em, but played off my pranks only for their good. And then, when I used to get into a terrible fight, you remember how you used to come in at the last minute, and carry me off home just as I was nearly giving in. And then, how afterwards I used to brag that, if grandmother hadn't taken me away, I'd have licked twenty boys—one down, another come on! Well, well; the more I see of life, the more I'm sure men only play over their boys' tricks; only they do it with graver faces and worse words."

"What you did for me, the Archbishop of Canterbury has done for the Bishop of Exeter. Almost at the last minute, he has wrapped his apron about the Bishop, and carried him out of the squabble. And now the Bishop writes a letter, as long as a church bell rope, in which he says he only gives up fighting to show that he's obedient—more than hinting that, if he'd been allowed to go on, he'd have beaten all comers with one hand behind him. At all events, he's very glad there's been a rumpus, as it proves there's pluck on both sides."

"Fisher's Colonial Magazine" gives an interesting life of "Henry Clay, the rejected of America;" a second part of "A Visit to the Cape of Good Hope;" a translation of Mons. Rodet on the "Tariff of Duties in the United States;" an account of "Trinidad in the Nineteenth Century," by a late resident, &c. This is a valuable magazine for those who are contemplating emigration, or who possess a commercial interest in the condition and proceedings of our colonies, while tarry-at-home travelers will find amusement and information in its pages.

"The Baptist Record" and "United Secession Magazine" are two of the cheapest and best-conducted periodicals of the day. "The Student" is well worthy of extensive support. The second part of "The Modern Orator" contains some more of the noble and spirit-stirring speeches of Chatham.

Essays on Christian Union. pp. 552. Hamilton, Adams, and Co. 1845.

CHRISTIAN UNION is an object for which we are willing to give not a little. Indeed, we have given it. All our labours in seeking a universal realisation of nonconformist principles aim, among other things, at this blessed end. The establishment and support of a sect by the state are among the chief causes of schism. Tried by reason or experience, there is no worse foe to Christian fellowship than the union of Christianity with the state. Its influence on the party patronised, and on other parties, is to produce religious alienation. Mr James, even in the essay which he contributes to this volume, says:—"I am afraid that little is to be expected in the way of visible union, from the evangelical portion of the national establishment;" and he alludes to the circumstance of only two clergymen being found at the Exeter hall union meeting the year before last, significantly adding in a note—"This, be it remarked, was before the formation of the Anti-church-and-state Conference." And as long as the state church continues, not only will it prevent the fellowship of its members with dissenters, but it will, as it does now, operate to the prevention of communion among dissenters themselves. The separation of church and state would do more to bring about Christian union than all other means together.

There are two mistakes that are possible to be made, and perhaps likely, in connexion with this subject. There is danger of undervaluing the actual unity of Christian people—of forgetting that, unless Christianity has failed, and Christ's prayer has not been answered, which are absurd and blasphemous suppositions, the church is one, and division merely concerns the external relations of its different sections and members. And on the other hand, there is danger, certainly not less, of attempting too much, and thus of putting back that which might be attained. The pressure of popery and high-churchism has a tendency to frighten many minds, and not the worst, though certainly not the strongest, into the pursuit of the fiction of a visible church. It becomes the advocates of union, in their attempts to reveal and manifest what exists already, to beware of going before the desire and meetness for it—to take heed that a good thing is not purchased by bad conditions—and not to forget that the union that cannot subsist with "speaking the truth in love" is such a one as will not last, and is but little worth. For our own parts, we are not sanguine as to a very much greater degree of visible union being attainable than now obtains; we believe that much of that already in existence would fail before a very little testing; and we are persuaded that the only way to a sound and permanent good-will and fellowship is through a more clear and hearty recognition than prevails at present of the right of private judgment—that there must be more controversy before there will be less, and that about the very roots of things—that individualism must be the basis of safe and holy communion.

At the same time, friends to enlightenment on

all subjects, we are glad to see the volume before us. The getting of it up speaks well for the Christian spirit of the "Friend to Union" upon whom the labour and expense devolved; while the names of Chalmers, Balmer, Candlish, James, King, Wardlaw, Struthers, and Symington, are sufficient guarantees of evangelical doctrine, intellectual ability, wisdom, and charity. It is a beautiful book in every application of the term.

The Apostleship and Apostolical Succession. By the Rev. JOHN CRAIG. pp. 100. Hamilton, Adams, and Co. 1845.

THIS is a worthy book by a worthy man. By a consideration of apostolical prerogatives, apostolical qualifications, and apostolical succession, it disproves, on the ground of scripture, the pretensions of papists and Anglo-catholics. The right point is here put. Let those who claim to succeed the apostles do what Paul did—prove that they possess apostolical gifts, and can perform apostolical works. If he considered it necessary, in order to make out his apostolate, to show that he had visions and wrought signs, which none can pretend to have and work now, the case is hopeless of such a claim to descend from the immediate and extraordinary officers of Christ. It is a *descent* indeed!

Agricultural Chemistry. By GEORGE COX, Author of "Spectacle Secrets," "Chemical Delectus," &c. London: published by the Author, 128, Holborn hill; Simpkin and Marshall, Stationers' Hall court, &c.

WHEN there seems to be a war of opinion with regard to the comparative importance of agriculture and manufactures, we believe it to be absolutely necessary, that each party should know the nature of the grounds upon which the stability of their systems rest. Manufacture and commerce are not niggard in trying to reach the highest bounds of utility and prosperity, and why should their sister agriculture lag behind? Like the links of a chain, they hang together by the law of mutual dependence.

Mr Cox's treatise is designed to show, that agriculture is in itself a science, and that a thorough knowledge of chemistry, so far as regards soils, manures, &c., is necessary for its successful pursuit. Though not practical chemists ourselves, we are sure he is right. His present work is therefore, we think, seasonable; and if farmers and landlords be desirous of carrying out a proper cultivation of their grounds to the best advantage, they will find much practical information in its pages. The soil, and what springs from it, is to all men the most fruitful source of contemplation; and were we tillers of the earth, and economists of its produce, we should as soon take Mr Cox for our chemical guide as any other writer—with the exception of Liebig—with whose productions we are acquainted.

The Pocket Guide to Commercial Bookkeeping, &c., &c. By PROFESSOR WALLACE. Glasgow: W. R. McPhun, 84, Argyle street. N. H. Cotes, London. W. White and Co., Edinburgh. 1845. Sixth Thousand.

INTO whatever business a man may enter, no small degree of his success will depend upon a correct method of keeping his accounts. To all anxious to obtain a full knowledge of this, in its most approved methods, and in connexion with all kinds of commerce, we would recommend this "Pocket Guide." The number of copies already disposed of speaks strongly in its favour.

Tweddell's Yorkshire Miscellany and Englishman's Magazine. No. 2. October, 1844. W. Brittain, Paternoster row, London; W. Hargrave, York; George Tweddell, Stokesley. Price Sixpence.

ALL periodicals, to be successful, must contain first-rate articles; and these can seldom be secured without paying first-rate prices. London, Edinburgh, and Dublin have hitherto monopolised the market; and in the face of this monopoly, we shall feel glad if Mr Tweddell's attempt to establish his magazine meets the patronage it deserves. It only comes forth quarterly—the price is only sixpence; and though we cannot discover much of a high character in its pages, we must remember that it is in its infancy—that its contributors are only pluming their wings, and will acquire strength with exercise. The articles are varied and amusing, and adorned with flowers from the garden of poetry—some above the average merit. Provincial talent has as yet only shone in its pages; and surely there is talent and genius in Yorkshire to produce articles superior to those that have yet appeared, and sufficient literary taste and pride to prevent the too common reception of provincial periodicals.

Notes on the Scripture Lessons for 1845.

Sunday School Teachers' Class Register.

Class Register and Diary. 1845.

WE admire greatly the general plan of the Scripture Lessons, and can speak of them from having often examined them, somewhat minutely. Though they are susceptible of much more compactness and force, and might, we think, be much shorter with considerable advantage, they are most useful appendages to Sunday school instruction. The writer, we imagine, is not accustomed to converse with children; and the teacher must translate almost all the lessons out of Latin into English, before he can be understood by them. But let us not censure where there is so much that is laudable. The Class Registers need only to be seen in order to their appreciation.

Political Dictionary; containing all the General Terms in use of Constitutional and Ecclesiastical Law, &c. Vol. I. Part I. Charles Knight, Ludgate hill. 1844. pp. 128.

THIS enterprising publisher here undertakes a new work. His intention is to supply a volume of reference in all the most important statistical departments of finance and commerce. What the political doctrines may be, which this publication shall advocate, cannot, of course, be learned from its first number. But we observe, in the article on Agriculture, that the admission of foreign grain is stated to be necessary to the free development of agriculture; whilst it is said that "nothing except a uniform duty can regulate the foreign trade, and give it that steadiness which is most particularly the interest of the agriculturist." No very pronounced opinion is, however, given, though the tendency of the whole indicates whiggism. As a book of reference, the work is calculated to be exceedingly serviceable, and fills up a vacant niche very opportunely. Well look for a usquehott subsequent numbers with much interest.

Religious Intelligence.

OXFORD.—Mr James Spence, M.A., of the university of Aberdeen, and formerly of Highbury college, London, has received a cordial and unanimous invitation from the congregational church assembling in George Street chapel, Oxford, to become their pastor.

THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SHIP THE DOVE.—On Monday afternoon, January 27th, a public service was held on board this beautiful vessel, lying in the East India docks, intended to associate her with the British and Foreign Sailors' Society, as a Bethel ship, and to commend her captain and crew to the special care of Divine providence. It was intended, in consequence of the state of the weather, to hold the meeting in the cabin; the numbers, however, who were present, rendered an alteration of the plan necessary. The service was, therefore, conducted on deck, though a strong wind blowing at the time occasioned some inconvenience to the friends assembled. After a hymn had been given out by Mr C. J. Hyatt, secretary to the British and Foreign Sailors' Society, and prayer offered by Mr J. Russell, of Greenwich, Dr Cox delivered an address, stating the views of the committee in the purchase of the vessel. The assembly having again united in praise, Mr Hooper, one of the directors of the Sailors' Society, presented the captain with a Bethel flag, previously given to the Society by the ladies of Robert Street chapel, to whom it will afford pleasure to know that their gift has been thus appropriated. Mr H. S. Seaborne then delivered a farewell address to the captain and crew, and the service was closed by prayer, offered by Mr J. Angus, the secretary of the Baptist Missionary Society.

THE EAST PARADE CHAPEL, LEEDS, being crippled by a debt of £6,080, two anonymous individuals subscribed each £1,000 towards its liquidation, about three weeks ago; and the congregation have since added £4,000 for the same purpose.

ANOTHER LARGE DEBT EXTINGUISHED.—BELGRAVE CHAPEL, LEEDS.—It is with high satisfaction that we announce another most spirited act on the part of an independent congregation in this town, in at once clearing itself from debt. Scarcely was the extraordinary effort of the people at East Parade chapel announced, than a few of the congregation of the Rev. Dr Hamilton, at Belgrave chapel, resolved that they would, in the course of the same week, equally rid themselves of their chapel debt. Already the thing is done. The debt amounted to upwards of £1,200, and on Thursday evening, the sum subscribed amounted to £1,290; so that the debt on Belgrave chapel is more than cleared. Still, the congregation have an incumbrance of £400 on their former place of worship, Albion chapel, for which they pay £18 a-year interest; and the subscription is therefore going on, to clear off this burden also. Moreover, the people of Belgrave chapel are laudably anxious to build a day school on their spare ground; and some of them are looking to the accomplishment of that object at the present time. We hope they will succeed. They will find that these benevolent efforts leave them, not weaker, but stronger. They gladden the heart and strengthen the hands of their beloved and distinguished pastor. We may also hope that all other congregations of the same order in the town will arise, and, following these honourable examples, shake off their debts; and that the determination will spread to other parts of the kingdom, as we know that in some measure it has done already. Again we say, let the congregations meet, and try.—*Leeds Mercury.*

At the jubilee services of the London Missionary Society, held in Bristol, last week, upwards of £500 was collected.

BIRTHS.

On Wednesday week, at Newark, the wife of Mr TEMPLE, of the Newark brewery, was safely delivered of three fine children, a boy and two girls, who with the mother are doing well. The children were named Samuel, Emily, and Lavinia, but the extraordinary similitude of their faces renders it no easy task to distinguish them. The mother has borne seventeen children, but five of them are dead.

Jan. 27, at Basingstoke, Mrs ALFRED JOHNSON, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

Jan. 23, at the Friends' meeting-house, Skipton, JOSIAH THOMPSON, Esq., of Rawdon, to MARGARET WILSON, of Close house, near Skipton.

Jan. 26, at Ebenezer chapel, Halifax, by Mr B. Shinwell, Mr STEPHEN LEWIS SHAW, to Miss ELIZABETH SIMPSON, both of Greetland.

Jan. 26, at the Countess of Huntingdon's chapel, Bath, by Mr John Owen, Mr WILLIAM KENYON, of Trinity place, to Miss SUSANNA JONES, of Dafford street, Larkhall.

Jan. 27, at West Hackney, Mr SAMUEL IVES, bookseller, Paternoster row, to MARY, eldest daughter of the late Joseph BATES, Esq., of Upton.

Jan. 28, at the baptist chapel, Gamlingsay, Cambridgeshire, Mr JOHN SMITH, of Abbotsey, Huntingdonshire, to RHODA, only daughter of Mr THOMAS WOODHAM, of Gamlingsay.

Jan. 28, at Mount Zion chapel, Sheffield, by Mr E. Tasker, Mr JOSEPH BRADLEY, Suffolk road, to Miss AMELIA BEST, Pitsmore.

Jan. 28, at the independent chapel, St Albans, Mr H. CLARK to Miss HUMBERSTONE, both of St Albans.

Jan. 29, at the independent chapel, Gornal, near Dudley, by Mr John Hill, M.A., Mr JOHN ASTON, of Gornal, to Miss HANNAH WILLIAMS, second daughter of Mr Joseph Williams, of Beirton lane.

Jan. 30, at Kensington, by Mr James Stratton, SAMUEL, youngest son of Mr Thomas HITCHEN, of Camden town, to MARY ANN, second daughter of the late John YOUNG, Esq., of Maida hill west.

Jan. 30, at the independent chapel, Tean, Staffordshire, by Mr D. Griffiths, Mr FRITCHARD, to HANNAH, youngest daughter of Mr B. TUPPENCE, of Gornal hill. This is the first marriage solemnized at the above chapel.

Feb. 3, at the baptist chapel, Clipstone, Mr EDWARD BUSWELL, to Miss HARRIET BUSWELL, both of that place.

DEATHS.

Jan. 7, deeply lamented by a large circle of friends, after a lingering illness, borne with marked Christian resignation, Mrs GEORGE SHIPPEY, Sidney street, Cambridge, the eldest daughter of the late Mr W. Cuttriss, of Ridgmount, Beds.

Jan. 27, at the rectory, Mr JOHN CHANNING ARDY, rector of St John's, Southwark, in the 53rd year of his age.

Jan. 28, ELIZABETH WRIGHT ANDERSON, youngest daughter of Mr E. W. Anderson, of South Audley street, aged two years and eight months.

Jan. 29, at Camberwell, Mr JAMES RAWLINGS, aged 56.
Jan. 24, at Petersfield, Hants, Mrs WILKES, aged 68.
Jan. 29, at Clapham, in the 70th year of her age, SELINA MARY, widow of the late George GROTE, Esq., of Threadneedle street.
Jan. 30, at Walworth, after a short illness, Mr JOHN KITSON, student at the London University, in the 21st year of his age.
Jan. 30, at the Lake, parish of Sedgley, of brain fever, Miss REBECCA KNIGHT, aged 17.
Jan. 31, at Epsom, WILLIAM WRANGHAM, Esq., in the 70th year of his age.
Yesterday, at his residence, Leytonstone, Essex, in his 52nd year, ABRAHAM BAWLSON BARCLAY, Esq., an esteemed member of the Society of Friends.

Trade and Commerce.

LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, January 31.

The following building is certified as a place duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to the act of 6 and 7 Wm IV., cap. 85:—
Ebenezer chapel, Methodist New Connexion, Manchester.

ARGENT, JAMES, 49, Golden lane, Barbican, victualer, Feb. 6, March 14: solicitor, Mr G. F. Cooke, King street, Cheapside.
BLINKHORN, WILLIAM, Little Bolton, Lancashire, manufacturing chemist, Feb. 18, March 10: solicitors, Mr John Elliott Fox, 40, Finsbury circus, London, and Mr Earle, Manchester and Ashton-under-Lyne.

BRICE, SAMUEL, 50, St John street, tailor, Feb. 7, March 14: solicitor, Mr Garry, Chancery lane.

BURT, WILLIAM, late of 53, Harrow road, and now of 86, Lisson grove, boarding-house keeper, Feb. 7, March 13: solicitors, Messrs Lawrence and Pless, Bucklersbury.

COLLINS, JOHN, Sheffield, grocer, Feb. 13, March 6: solicitors, Mr Duncan, Featherstone buildings, Holborn, London; Mr Unwin, Sheffield; and Mr John Blackburn, Leeds.

FIELDING, WILLIAM, Taunton, Lancashire, hat plush manufacturer, Feb. 11, March 5: solicitors, Messrs Gregory and Co., Bedford row, London, and Mr Charles Cooper, Manchester.

FLOWERS, EDWARD COOPER, Whitechurch, Buckinghamshire, cattle dealer, Feb. 6, March 14: solicitor, Mr Close, St Mildred's court, Poultry.

FRANCIS, ABRAHAM, DAVEY, WILLIAM, and FRANCIS, MATTHEW, Baglit, Flintshire, ironfounders, Feb. 10, March 4: solicitors, Messrs Cox and Williams, Lincoln's-inn fields, London, and Mr Oldfield, Holywell.

GREENWOOD, RICHARD, Bradford, Yorkshire, bookseller, Feb. 13, March 6: solicitors, Mr Nethersole, New inn, London, and Mr Carless, Leeds.

HARRIS, RICHARD, and HILL, JOHN, 86, Newgate street, tailors, Feb. 15, March 15: solicitor, Mr James Bowen May, Queen square, Bloomsbury.

HEPWORTH, JOHN, and HEPWORTH, DAVID, Raistrick, Yorkshire, cotton warp dyers, Feb. 10, March 3: solicitors, Mr Lever, King's road, Bedford row, London, and Messrs England and Hellawell, Huddersfield.

LEVING, JOHN, Blackburn, Lancashire, linendraper, Feb. 13, March 6: solicitors, Messrs Milne and Co., Temple, London, and Messrs Wilding and Fisher, Blackburn.

JONES, ROBERT, Liverpool, boot maker, Feb. 14, March 14: solicitors, Mr Thomas Moore Troughton, Liverpool, and Messrs Kedwell and Co., 34, Lime street, London.

LESTER, WILLIAM UPTON, late of Aldermanbury, City, but now of Newcastle-under-Lyne, dealer in potter's materials, Feb. 8, March 8: solicitors, Messrs White and Co., Bedford row, London, and Messrs Ward and Co., Newcastle-under-Lyne.

ROBINSON, EDWIN LEWELLIN, Moulton, Lincolnshire, fellmonger, Feb. 11, March 11: solicitors, Messrs Bonner and Son, Spalding, and Messrs Mottram and Knowles, Birmingham.

WHYTE, THOMAS, Birmingham, hardware merchant, Feb. 7, March 11: solicitors, Messrs A. and T. S. Ryland, Birmingham.

CRAWFORD, WILLIAM, Montrose, flax spinner, Feb. 5, 26.

FRIER, JAMES, and SON, Edinburgh, victual dealers, Feb. 5, 25.

G. Alexander, Beaminstor, Dorset, inkkeeper; div. of 3s. 4d., any day after Feb. 6—J. Bow, Torrington, Devonshire, chemist; div. of 2s. 2d., any day after Feb. 6—W. Taylor, Springhead, Yorkshire, wool merchant; first div. of 2s. 9d., any Wednesday—J. Higginbottom, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, money scrivener; second div. of 5s., any Wednesday—C. B. Buchanan and W. Cunningham, Liverpool, merchants; second div. of 3d., any Monday—W. Jackson, Liverpool, baker; first div. of 1s. 2d., any Monday—S. A. Goddard and R. Hill, Birmingham, merchants; first div. of 4d.

Tuesday, Feb. 4th.

The following building is certified as a place duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to the act of 6 and 7 William IV., cap. 85:—
Baptist chapel, Kerry, Montgomeryshire.

ASHBARRY, JOSEPH, Holm Lacy, Herefordshire, farmer, Feb. 10, March 10: solicitors, Mr Lanworne, Hereford; Mr Suckling, Birmingham.

ASTON, WILLIAM, sen., Aston juxta Birmingham, victualer, Feb. 13, March 13: solicitors, Mr Chaplin, Gray's inn, London; Messrs Harrison and Smith, Birmingham.

HAWARD, CHARLES STEPHEN, Colchester, grocer, Feb. 14, March 14: solicitors, Messrs Reed and Shaw, 59, Friday street, Cheapside; Messrs Philbrick and Co., Colchester.

HOGGINBOTHAM, JOSEPH, and PECK, GEORGE, Manchester, machine makers, Feb. 15, March 7: solicitors, Messrs Mackinson and Sanders, 3, Elm court, Temple, London, and Messrs Atkinson and Saunders, Manchester.

HUMM, SAMUEL, late of 146, Brick lane, Bethnal green, silk hat manufacturer, Feb. 11, March 18: solicitors, Messrs Horwood and Griffin, 27, Austinfriars.

MILLER, JAMES, Southampton, boot maker, Feb. 18, March 18: solicitors, Messrs Smith and Atkins, 12, Serjeants' inn, Fleet street, and Messrs Mackey and Girdlestone, Southampton.

RAYNER, JAMES BURTON, and CARTER, THOMAS SCARLETT, Coleman street, City, lamp manufacturers, Feb. 13, March 14: solicitors, Messrs Stevens and Co., Queen street, Cheapside.

WESTON, THOMAS, Southampton, plumber, Feb. 12, March 19: solicitors, Messrs Jones and Co., Bedford row.

WHITLOW, JOHN, Manchester, laceman, Feb. 15, March 13: solicitors, Messrs Reed and Shaw, Friday street, London, and Messrs Sale and Worthington, Manchester.

SCOTCH SEQUESTERATIONS.

DURIE, CHARLES, Arbroath, merchant, Feb. 11, March 3.

M'NAUGHTON, ALLAN, Leith, ship broker, Feb. 11, March 4.

DIVIDENDS.

J. C. and G. H. White, Bath, musicsellers, first div. of 6s., any Monday—I. Alderson, Warley, Yorkshire, worsted spinner, first and final div. of 6s. 2d., any Tuesday—J. Cartledge, Browbridge, Yorkshire, merchant, first and final div. of 4s. 6d., any Tuesday—Lees, Brassey, Farr, and Lee, Lombard street, City, bankers, dividends of 1s. 4d. and 9s., any Wednesday—S. Southey, first div. of 10s., any Saturday—J. P. Sporer, sec. div. of 6s., and first and sec. divs of 19s. on new proofs, and first div. of 20s., any Saturday—W. E. Dray, first div. of 4s., any Saturday—C. Alderton, first div. of 1s. 9d., any Saturday—D. Pope, first div. of 2s., any Saturday—T. Brand, first div. of 3d., any Saturday—J. Crambrook, first div. of 4s. 4d., any Saturday.

BRITISH FUNDS.

The business done in the English funds is very trifling, all the energies of the speculators being engaged in the railway shares. Prices are about stationary.

3 per cent. Consols 100 100 100 100 100 100
Ditto for Account 100 100 100 100 100 100
3 per cent. Reduced 100 100 100 100 100 100
New 3 per cent. 104 104 104 104 104 104
Long Annuities 12 12 12 12 12 12
Bank Stock 213 215 215 215 215 214
India Stock 286 286 286 286 286 286
Exchequer Bills 66 66pm 66pm 64pm 64pm 65pm
India Bonds 76pm 76pm 76pm 76pm 76pm 76pm

FOREIGN FUNDS.	
Austrian	113
Belgian	103
Brazilian	89½
Buenos Ayres	41
Columbian	14½
Danish	90
Dutch 2½ per cents	63½
Ditto 5 per cents	99
Mexican	38
Peruvian	29
Portuguese 5 per cents	85
Ditto converted	60
Russian	120
Spanish Active	98
Ditto Passive	62
Ditto Deferred	17½

RAILWAY SHARES.	
Birmingham and Derby	93
Birmingham & Gloucester	128
Blackwall	7½
Bristol and Exeter	77
Cheltenham & Gt. Western	—
Eastern Counties	18½
Edinburgh and Glasgow	66
Grand Junction	394
Great North of England	150
Great Western	180
Ditto Half	104
Ditto Fifth	41
London and Birmingham	237
London & Birm. ½ Shares	28
London and Brighton	54
London & Croydon Trunk	18½
London and Greenwich	11
Ditto New	25
Manchester and Leeds	143
Midland Counties	130
Ditto New Shares	9
Midland and Derby	94
Ditto New	49
South Eastern and Dover	80½
South Western	12
Ditto New	12

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, Feb. 3.

There were large arrivals of wheat from the east coast last week. To-day the fresh show of samples was not large; but the trade was very dull, which may partly be attributed to the damp condition of a considerable portion; and there was a decline of fully 1s. per quarter, except on picked samples of high-conditioned corn. In foreign very little is doing.

Of barley there were large supplies, and there is still a great deal of foreign pressing on the market, and a decline of 1s. per quarter must be quoted, but a clearance could not be made.

There was a fair supply of oats from our own coast, rather large from Scotland, with a few cargoes of Irish and foreign. The trade has been very dull, and in many instances a little less money has been taken.

Beans and peas of all sorts dull, and the turn is rather in favour of buyers.

Wheat, Red New ..	38 to 46	Malt, Ordinary ..	4s. to 5s.
Fine ..	46 .. 51	Pale ..	56 .. 64
White ..	43 .. 50	Rye ..	30 .. 34
Fine ..	50 .. 54	Peas, Hog ..	33 .. 34
Flour, per sack ..	33 .. 45	Maple ..	33 .. 34
Barley ..	24 .. 27	Boilers ..	33 .. 38
Malt ..	32 .. 35	Beans, Ticks ..	31 .. 36

BEANS, PIGEON .. 39 to 38

Harrow .. 33 .. 36

Oats, Feed .. 20 .. 22

Fine .. 22 .. 24

Poland .. 21 .. 24

Potato .. 23 .. 24

WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR JAN. 31.

Wheat .. 45s. 7d.

Barley .. 34 2

Oats .. 21 3

Rye .. 30 11

Beans .. 35 4

Peas .. 36 1

Wheat .. 45s. 7d.

Barley .. 34 4

Oats .. 21 6

Rye .. 33 3

Beans .. 35 9

Peas .. 35 9

AGGREGATE AVERAGE OF THE SIX WEEKS.

Wheat .. 45s. 7d.

Barley .. 34 4

Oats .. 21 6

Rye .. 33 3

Beans .. 35 9

Peas .. 35 9

SEEDS.

There was not much doing in the seed market. The actual consumptive demand for cloverseed has scarcely yet commenced, and speculators were cautious. White clover was rather easier to buy. Linseed and rapeseed supported former terms. Canaryseed moved off slowly. Tares were scarce, and inquired for.

Linseed .. per qr.

English, sowing 52s. to 58s.

Baltic, ditto

Ditto, crushing .. 38 .. 43

Medit. & Odessa 38 .. 40

Hempseed, small .. 35 .. 38

Large

Canary, new .. 51 .. 52

Extra .. 52 .. 53

Caraway, old .. 44 .. 46

New .. 48 .. 50

Ryegrass, English

Scotch

Mustard .. per bushel

Brown, new .. 8 .. 14

White .. 10 .. 13

Trefoil

Old

Tares, new .. 6s. 0d. to 7s. 6d.

Clover .. per cwt.

English, red

Ditto, white

Flemish, pale

Ditto, fine

New Hamb., red

Old Hamb., red

Ditto, fine

French, red

Ditto, white

Coriander .. 15 .. 18

Old

Rapeseed .. per last

English, new .. 23s. to 25s.

Linseed cakes ..

English .. 13s. 0s. to 14s.

Foreign .. 7s. 15s. to 9s.

Rapeseed cakes ..

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Feb. 3.

Of butter there was a respectable quantity of the low and moderate-priced foreign sold, and rather more was done in the lowest and best qualities of Irish; but for such no variation worth notice occurred in prices. Most of the dealers in bacon being well supplied by the recent arrivals, the transactions have been few, and prices nominally as last quoted. Sellers for shipment three months forward met buyers to a moderate extent for Waterford and Limerick at a slight reduction in price. Bale and tierce middles, hams, and lard, were not much sought after, and their value scarcely so good as stated in our last report.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, Feb. 3.

The market is very good, and there has been a moderate business doing, though we cannot notice any feature of interest.

POTATOES, BOROUGH, Monday, Feb. 3.

The arrivals have been liberal, and the weather being favourable for the consumption of potatoes, the demand increased, and best samples were eagerly sought after. There was a slight improvement in the prices of some of the best samples, and previous quotations were fully supported.

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, Feb. 3.

Owing to the approaching season of Lent, and the thin attendance of buyers, the beef trade was excessively dull. The primest Scots found buyers at, in some instances, last week's quotations; but most other breeds suffered a decline of 2d. per 8lbs., and a clearance was not effected. From abroad there were on sale 100 beasts and 60 sheep. The former found buyers at prices varying from 16l. to 20l.; the latter, 1l. 10s. to 2l. per head. The number of sheep being more than equal to the wants of the trade, the demand was in a sluggish state, yet we can notice no variation in the currencies. Calves were in limited supply and active request, at enhanced currencies. In pigs a good business was doing, at fully last week's quotations.

Price per stone of 8lbs. (sinking the offal).

Beef .. 2s. 6d. to 4s. 0d.

Mutton .. 2 8 .. 4 4

and 1,000 Pernam have been forwarded unsold during this month. The sales of the week amount to 39,520 bales, including 6,500 American and 300 Surat on speculation, and 1,200 American, with 400 Surat, for export.

WOOL.

There continues to be a steady demand for all kinds of combing and clothing wools. Prices are very firm. The important public sales commenced in the Hall of Commerce on Thursday, the sale room being extremely crowded. The auctions opened at a decided advance in prices of 2d. per lb., and if the whole quantity advertised can be got ready in time, there will be 14,000 or 15,000 bales to choose from, the bulk being from our Australian, but a good deal also from our Cape possessions. The imports of wool into London last week were 857 bales, of which 356 were from Turkey, 157 from Bombay, 316 from Tanagerog, 5 from Russia, 20 from Buenos Ayres, and 3 from New Zealand.

HAY, SMITHFIELD, Feb. 1.—At per load of 36 trusses.
Coarse Meadow .. 70s. to 90s. New Clover Hay .. 90s. to 120s.
New ditto Old ditto
Useful Old ditto .. 92 .. 104 Oat Straw 32 .. 34
Fine Upland ditto 104 .. 110 Wheat Straw 34 .. 36

COAL EXCHANGE, Feb. 3.

Stewart's, 21s. 6d.; Hetton's, 21s. 0d.; Braddyl's Hettons, 22s. 0d. Ships arrived this week, 404.

GROCERIES.—TUESDAY, FEB. 4.

TEA.—The market is steady at rather improved rates. The deliveries last week were 444,147 lbs. The stock on the 1st instant, at this port, was 26,959,000 lbs. of which 22,799,000 lbs consisted of black, and 4,160,000 lbs of green; last year the total quantity was 26,373,000 lbs. of which 22,538,000 lbs comprised black, and 3,835,000 lbs green.

COFFEE.—There were not any public sales. Good ordinary Ceylon are selling slowly at 50s. to 52s. per cwt. The market has a dull appearance.

SUGAR.—The purchases in the British plantation market went at a further decline of 6d. to 1s. per cwt. Fine yellow fetched 66s.; good middling to good 58s. to 61s. The refined market is very dull, standard lumps selling slowly at 73s., and brown grocery at 71s. per cwt. Bonded crushed, however, are in demand, at 31s. 3d. to 31s. 6d. It is pretty evident that the trade expect an alteration in the duties.

Advertisements.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.
SOUTHWARK.—A LECTURE will be delivered at UNION STREET CHAPEL (Rev. J. Lyon's), on THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 13th, by the Rev. JOHN BURNET. Subject—State Churches unsanctioned by Old Testament Analogy.

To commence at SEVEN o'clock.
Registrars will attend to enrol Members at the close of the Lecture.

VAUXHALL COMPOSITE CANDLES, 84d.
per lb., PRICE'S PATENT CANDLES, 104d. per lb.
These are the London cash prices, but the Country ones vary with the distance from town.

Both sorts burn exactly as well as the finest wax, and are cheaper, allowing for the light, than tallow moulds.

Sold wholesale to the trade by Edward Price and Co., Belmont, Vauxhall; Palmer and Co., Sutton street, Clerkenwell; and Wm Marchant, 253, Regent circus, Oxford street.

Until these Candles become generally sold throughout the country, Edward Price and Co. will supply any private families unable to obtain them in their own neighbourhood, with a quantity not less than 51, worth, direct from the factory. On a line being addressed to Belmont, Vauxhall, enclosing a Post office order for 51, (payable to Edward Price and Co., not to Edward Price, or Mr Price), they will forward a box of the Vauxhall Composite, or of the others, or a mixed box, as may be directed, to that exact amount.

BETTS'S PATENT CAPSULED BRANDY.—

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